



JUDGES CHAPTER 14 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- If you could be an superhero, what superhero would you be and why?
- Does that superhero have any “flaws?” If so, what are they?
- **Opening Prayer**
 - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Read the Story (Judges 14:1-20)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU INTRODUCE SOME OF THE HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE BOOK OF JUDGES AND THE JUDGES CYCLE WITH YOUR GROUP.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you have to get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Judges 14:1-7

- Just as the entire book of Judges has a repeating cycle in it, the life of Samson also has a repeating cycle in it.
 - Samson's desire...his pursuit of that desire...opposition from the Philistines...he seeks vengeance...the cycle repeats
- Based upon the text, what is wrong with Samson's demand and request of his parents to get a wife for him?

- He chose someone who wasn't an Israelite and someone from the Philistines, the enemies of the Israelites.
 - In what ways have you allowed your desires to lead you rather than surrendering those desires to God? What has happened as a result?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
 - What brothers and sisters in Christ have you surrounded yourself with who will tell you what you need to hear rather than what you want to hear?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Judges 14:8-14

- In what ways did Samson compromise and violate the Nazarite vow found in verses 8-9?
 - According to the Nazarite vow, Samson was not to touch any animal or person that was dead. This may seem like a small thing to us but compromising on his commitments and vows characterized much of Samson's life although God still worked through him.
 - When might it be tempting to compromise our commitments to each of the following to pursue what we want?
 - Our relationship with God
 - Our families
 - Our work
 - Our brothers and sisters in Christ
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Judges 14:15-20

- What is interesting about how Samson chooses to use his God given strength in this passage?

- Samson doesn't use his strength to help Israel defeat the Philistines. Rather, Samson uses his strength simply to get even with the Philistines.
- What resources, talents, and gifts has God given you?
 - How are you currently using those resources, talents, and gifts for His Kingdom on behalf of others?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Judges Chapter 15)



JUDGES CHAPTER 14 (STUDENT)

Judges 14:1-7

- Just as the entire book of Judges has a repeating cycle in it, the life of Samson also has a repeating cycle in it.

- Based upon the text, what is wrong with Samson's demand and request of his parents to get a wife for him?
 - In what ways have you allowed your desires to lead you rather than surrendering those desires to God? What has happened as a result?
 - What brothers and sisters in Christ have you surrounded yourself with who will tell you what you need to hear rather than what you want to hear?

Judges 14:8-14

- In what ways did Samson compromise and violate the Nazarite vow found in verses 8-9?
 - When might it be tempting to compromise our commitments to each of the following to pursue what we want?

Judges 14:15-20

- What is interesting about how Samson chooses to use his God-given strength in this passage?
 - What resources, talents, and gifts has God given you?
 - How are you currently using those resources, talents, and gifts for His Kingdom on behalf of others?