

# Judges

The Time of Judges (& Now) | Week 5

**11 MEN & 1  
WOMAN SET  
OVER ISRAEL TO  
JUDGE**

**TENT PEGS,  
DONKEY BONES,  
& LEFT-  
HANDEDNESS**

**SET APART FOR  
GOD BUT SET IN  
THEIR SINFUL  
WAYS**

*Not*

**PERFECT**

LIFE IN THE WAITING

# THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. - Judges 21:25



## COFFEE TALK

- Describe your ideal superhero. Is it a woman or a man? Do they have super powers or do they use technology and gadgets? Is their identity well known or is it kept a secret? Are they named after their powers or an animal that they mimic?

Does your superhero do everything ethically and above reproach? Or does your superhero blur the lines between lawful and vigilante?

Why does it matter who we think about in terms of being a superhero? What does our ideal superhero say about us personally? Do you find that you long to have a hero in your life. Why is that?

(This relates to Samson's strength.)



## READ

- **Judges 13-16**

(Appx. 18-20 min. to read/  
Consider reading before  
meeting.)



## REFLECT

- What stood out to you in the reading? Why?

- The angel of the LORD visited Samson's mother regarding her future pregnancy. What did the angel of the LORD tell her? And what instructions were given? Why do you think these instructions were important?

- We see Samson's father pray in 13:8. His prayer asked that the angel of the LORD would visit them again and "teach [them] how to bring up the boy who is to be born (NIV)." This prayer is an act of faith and need. Manoah and his wife were desirous of honoring God.

What in Manoah's prayer is encouraging to you? What makes you curious? Have you prayed a prayer to God lately, asking for His guidance, wisdom, and help? If so, describe how the Lord has worked in that particular situation.

- The events of chapter 14 brings about a situation where Samson tries to stump the Philistines. He proposes a riddle but is then

guilted/tricked into telling his wife the answer. The Philistines then answered the riddle and Samson became angry.

Samson was not just taking personal revenge, he was perhaps unwittingly fulfilling his role as a "judge" in Israel by slaying the enemies of God's people. How might something so violent (such as this instance or in the instance of killing Philistines with a jawbone [15:15-17]) be in line with God's plan?

- After Samson's encounter with Delilah, he is eventually subdued and lost his strength. This happens because of a moral compromise.

Was Samson's moral failure a one time instance or did it happen repeatedly in these chapters? If more than once, where do you see it through these chapters? Have you experienced compromise in your life? How have you been hurt by this compromise?



## ACT

- What is one thing that only God can do in your life at this moment that will bring Him glory and benefit others? How are you praying for that to happen in your life?