Discussion Questions – Samson
Read Judges 13-16

• Birth
  o What was unusual about Samson's birth? (Judges 13:3)
  o What did the angel tell his mother? (Judges 13:3-5)
  o What instructions did the angel give Samson's mother? (Judges 13:6-7)
  o What are the vows of a Nazarite? (see above: no strong drink, no eating of unclean food, and no hair cuts)
  o Did Manoah believe his wife?
  o Why do you think he insisted he hear the message from the angel?
  o What was unusual about Samson? (strength) Who was Samson's father? (Judges 13:8-9)

• Marriage
  o Who did Samson want to marry? (Judges 14:2)
  o Why didn't this please his parents? (Judges 14:3)
  o Do you have any rules about who you can date?
  o What did Samson do to the lion? (Judges 14:5-6)
  o What is Samson's riddle? (Judges 14:12-14)
  o Is this a fair riddle? Why or why not?
  o If you are the only one who can possibly know the answer, is it fair?
  o What do the Philistines promise to do to Samson's wife if they don't get the answer to the riddle? (Judges 14:15)
  o What does Samson's wife do? (she gets Samson to tell her and then she tells the Philistines)
  o What does Samson do in his anger? (Judges 14:19)
  o How does this affect his wife? (Judges 14:20)
  o What rules did Samson break? (he ate unclean food, honey from the lion, he drank strong drink at the feast, he killed people unnecessarily)
  o What happens when we break rules?
  o When Samson tries to win back his wife, what happens?
  o What does he do when his wife's father offers someone else? (Judges 15:3-5)
  o How many foxes did he catch? (300)
What do the Philistines do after Samson burns their crops? (Judges 15:6)

How does Samson avenge this act? (Judges 15:7-8)

What is revenge?

What happens when people resort to revenge?

What do we learn from Samson's experience about revenge?

How many men did Samson kill with the jaw bone of a donkey? (Judges 15:15)

After this carnage, he judged Israel for how many years? (Judges 15:20)

Failure of Samson

Who did the Philistines use to entice Samson? (Judges 16:1-2)

What does Samson do with the massive gate to the city?

Why do you think he did that?

What was the name of the woman Samson loved in the valley of Sorek? (Judges 16:4)

What was Delilah's motivation? (money)

Did she love Samson?

What mistake did Samson make with Delilah that he made with his wife? (told his secret)

Do you keep secrets?

What have you noticed when you tell someone a secret?

Who do you trust to tell a secret? Why?

How much money did the Philistines promise Delilah if she found the source of Samson's strength? (Judges 16:5)

How many times did Samson lie to Delilah before telling her that his hair was the source of his strength? (three times)

What four things did Samson tell Delilah would weaken him? (green withs, new ropes, weaving seven of his locks with the web, and a razor on his hair)

What do the Philistines do to Samson after they cut his hair?

What is Samson's final act?

What do we learn from Samson's life?