



THE FIGHT – Samson’s Revenge | 11-13-24

LARGE GROUP GAME: Fold and Fly

Go to the gym. Team are split by grade/gender. Have them line up near a stack of paper. When the game begins, each team can start making paper planes from their stack of paper. Everyone must make their own planes. Once a player has made a paper plane, they can go to the starting line and launch it. The team with the most planes in the hula hoops at the end of time is the winner.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (45 minutes)

Samson’s Revenge

- Samson made a lot of stupid decisions in his life. For example, he threw a party and drank alcohol when we wasn’t supposed to, he ate honey out of a lion carcass, and killed thirty people to steal their clothes!
 - Before you begin, have your group answer this question: *What is the dumbest or most stupid thing you’ve ever done?*
- Have one of your students, who was at JHM, recap what we talked about on Sunday in Judges 15.
- As a group, read Judges 15:1-5.
 - Based on what we’ve covered so far in the series (Judges 13-15), why do you think Samson felt the need to get even with the Philistines?

*Our number one goal for tonight is for students to **discuss their experiences with revenge and how we are to navigate it as followers of Jesus.***

JUDGES 15:1-5

¹ Later on, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson took a young goat and went to visit his wife. He said, “I’m going to my wife’s room.” But her father would not let him go in.

² “I was so sure you hated her,” he said, “that I gave her to your companion. Isn’t her younger sister more attractive? Take her instead.”

³ Samson said to them, “This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them.” ⁴ So he went out and caught three hundred foxes and tied them tail to tail in pairs. He then fastened a torch to every pair of tails, ⁵ lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines. He burned up the shocks and standing grain, together with the vineyards and olive groves.

Rethinking Revenge

Samson claimed that he had a “right to get even with the Philistines.” It is understandable for Samson to think this. After all, his wife had just been given to his best friend!

As Christ followers, we are instructed to think about revenge in the opposite way that Samson did. In Romans 12:19, it says, “Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.” God doesn’t want us to get even with others. We are called to **love** our enemies and those who do us wrong, even when it’s difficult. The God we serve is just. He will handle things in the way He sees fit. We do not need to take things into our own hands.

- On a scale of 1-10, how difficult is it for you to hold back getting even or taking revenge on someone?
 - Why can this be difficult?
- When was a time you took revenge on someone?
 - What did they do to you? What did you do back to them?
 - What ended up happening to your relationship with that person?
- What are some possible consequences of taking revenge on others?
- Is there someone that you currently want to get revenge on? (Avoid saying names out loud). Why?
 - Instead of taking revenge, how can you offer them forgiveness?
- Jesus instructs to love our friends AND enemies. This week, challenge your students to show love to their enemies. As a group, discuss ways to do this.

HIGH/LOW/GOD THING (15 minutes)

Depending on group size, you might split into even smaller (shepherding) groups for this. Have each student go around and identify a highlight of their week, a low point from their week and where they have seen God show up in their week. This time is to help them see God around them, to celebrate when something goes well and for them to be supported when they have had a rough week. If you’re short on time, let them choose one of those three to share.

PRAY

Encourage one student to pray for the group, specifically praying for them to be able to restrain from taking revenge this week. Challenge each student to extend kindness and love to the person or people they feel they want to get back at.