



## THE FIGHT – Samson’s Identity | 11-6-24

### LARGE GROUP INTRO

To kick off our series called *The Fight* about the Life of Samson, we’ll head to the gym and start off with a battle of strength... three-way, circle, tug-o-war!

Our number one goal tonight is to get kids thinking about what they need to do to make their faith their own, not just their parents’.

### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

#### A Big Commitment

1. Would you rather have to shave all your hair once a month or never be able to cut your hair/shave again?
2. Have someone who was at JHM on Sunday give a recap of what we talked about from the beginning of Samuel’s life in Judges 13-14.

Read Numbers 6:1-3, 5-6 about the Nazarite vow (that Samson’s parents committed him to.)

3. What were the three things a Nazirite like Samson made a vow not to do? (Drink alcohol, cut hair, go near dead bodies)
4. Why do you think God might choose those things for a special vow?
5. How would someone living by that vow have looked different or stood out from the rest of the people around them?
6. If God were making a new Nazirite vow for jr. high students today, what do you think he might include that would make it obvious to people around them that they were committed to Him and different from the rest of the world?
7. The Nazirite vow was voluntary, not required. It was for people who wanted to go above and beyond with a special commitment to God. When was a time in your life when you felt like God wanted you to make a special commitment to Him?
8. Is there a special vow or commitment you need to make to God this week that will make it clear to everyone that God is your top priority?

#### NUMBERS 6:1-3, 5-6

*“If any of the people, either men or women, take the special vow of a Nazirite, setting themselves apart to the Lord in a special way, <sup>3</sup>they must give up wine and other alcoholic drinks. They must not use vinegar made from wine or from other alcoholic drinks, they must not drink fresh grape juice, and they must not eat grapes or raisins.*

*<sup>5</sup>“They must never cut their hair throughout the time of their vow, for they are holy and set apart to the Lord. Until the time of their vow has been fulfilled, they must let their hair grow long. <sup>6</sup>And they must not go near a dead body during the entire period of their vow to the Lord.*

**Family Faith... from 1-10** (for 1-10 questions, at the same time have everyone hold out 1-10 fingers & talk about why they picked that number.)

Read Judges 13:3-5, 24-25.

1. Following God was VERY important to Samson’s parents. Even before he was born, they dedicated him to God and raised him to live by a special Nazarite vow (see Numbers 6:1-21 for more on that). On a scale of 1-10, how much would you say your family is dedicated to God? (1 not much, 10 always) How do you know?
  - a. When you’re grown and potentially have a family of your own, on a scale of 1-10, how dedicated do you want your life/family to be to God? Why?
  - b. When you think about your life then, how will you be able to tell if you’re fully living it for God? What would it look like?
2. On a scale of 1-10, if it was only up to you and not your parents, how dedicated would you say life is to God right now? Why did you choose that number?
3. Knowing you need to dedicate your own life to God, not just rely on your parents’ faith, is there anything you need to do this week to make that a reality in your life?

#### JUDGES 13:3-5, 24-25

*<sup>3</sup>The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah’s wife and said, “Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. <sup>4</sup>So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. <sup>5</sup>You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines.”*

*<sup>24</sup>When her son was born, she named him Samson. And the Lord blessed him as he grew up. <sup>25</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him while he lived in Mahaneh-dan, which is located between the towns of Zorah and Eshtaol.*

### HIGH/LOW/GOD THING (15 minutes – potentially split into shepherding groups for this)

**PRAY** – If there are students making specific commitments or vows, consider putting them in the center of the circle and praying specifically for them as they take on that new commitment this week.