

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ❖ Read **Numbers 6:1-12** What three vows does the Nazirite make (Samson will break all three). From what you know about those who were “set apart” from birth to serve the Lord, what are its benefits? Its potential drawbacks?
- ❖ How do you go about “separating yourself” to be with God but apart from the world (**John 17:13-19**)? What aspects of that vow would you keep or alter for you (or your children) in order to best serve God?
- ❖ What difference does it make for you to know that God intentionally made you the way you are, whether you are outgoing or reserved, self-expressive or self-controlled, cooperative or competitive?
- ❖ Who was the calming, level-headed force in your family when you were a child? And now? Who was the spiritually devout influence then? Now?
- ❖ In your life, where would you like to experience more self-control?
- ❖ What would you do over if you could? What has God brought out of that occasion, and what have you learned from it?
- ❖ Every strength has its flip side. While Samson had obvious physical strength, what was he lacking?
- ❖ What strength are you lacking? Where do you feel like Samson-bound and hoping to grow your hair back? What positively affects your spiritual strength?

Bible Versions used: **NIV**-New International; **TEV**-Today's English Version;

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SECRET STRENGTH

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1. Living a life of _____ weakens you.

Judges 14:1-3 (NIV) Samson went down to Timnah and saw there a young Philistine woman. When he returned, he said to his father and mother, "I have seen a Philistine woman in Timnah; now get her for me as my wife." His father and mother replied, "Isn't there an acceptable woman among your relatives or among all our people? Must you go to the uncircumcised Philistines to get a wife?" But Samson said to his father, "Get her for me. She's the right one for me."

*** To maintain spiritual strength, I must _____.**

1 Peter 4:1-2 (NIV) Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude,... As a result, he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

2. Living a life of _____ weakens you.

Judges 15:3-5 (NIV) Samson said to them, "This time I have a right to get even with the Philistines; I will really harm them." 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, lit the torches and let the foxes loose in the standing grain of the Philistines.

Job 5:2 (TEV) To worry yourself to death with resentment would be a foolish, senseless thing to do.

Job 18:4 (TEV) You are only hurting yourself with your anger.

Final Point:

How strong are you? _____

Are you the person God wants you to be? _____

What changes are "YOU" going to make today? _____

Micah 7:8 (TEV) Our enemies have no reason to gloat over us. We have fallen, but we will rise again. We are in darkness now, but the Lord will give us light.

*** To maintain spiritual strength, I must**

_____.

Proverbs 29:22 (NIV) An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

Proverbs 29:11 (NIV) A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

3. Living a life of _____ will weaken you.

Judges 13:5 (NIV) You will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth.

Judges 16:15-16;20 (NIV) Then she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when you won't confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven't told me the secret of your great strength." With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was tired to death. ²⁰ Then she called, "Samson, the Philistines are upon you!" He awoke from his sleep and thought, "I'll go out as before and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him.

*** To maintain spiritual strength, I must**

_____.

Proverbs 18:20 (TEV) You will have to live with the consequences of everything you say.

Psalms 15:4 (TEV) They always do what they promise, no matter how much it may cost.