

The Strength of Mercy

Dec. 4, 2022 | Judges 14-16 | Mercy in the Night | Pastor Mike Foster

Points to ponder:

- His Spirit is better than my senses
- His purpose is greater than I realize
- His mercy is stronger than my darkness

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. [What country are you cheering for in the World Cup and why?]
3. Read Proverbs 3:5-6. Share about a time when you followed your own senses rather than obeying God's Word and Spirit. What was the result? How did God show His mercy to you?
4. What would you say to someone who asks you for help walking according to God's Spirit instead of walking according to their own senses and flesh?
5. We see in Samson how the Lord can work through the evil actions of others to bring about His best purpose. In what ways does this comfort you? Why does this matter? (Consider Genesis 50:20 and Joseph's story.)
6. Read Hebrews 11:32. Why is Samson, who seems like a total anti-hero, listed among the "heroes of faith" in Hebrews 11? What does this mean?
7. Review some of the ways that Samson and Jesus are similar. And how are they different?
8. Read Matthew 1:21. What did Jesus come to do? How is his mission greater than Samson's? How did Jesus fulfill his mission in ways greater than Samson?
9. Read John 3:16 and Romans 10:13. Have you called on Jesus to save you from your sin? If not, is there anything specific keeping you from trusting in Jesus as your Savior?
10. What are some ways you try to prioritize Jesus during the Christmas season? Any ideas or traditions to share that could help others?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

Read Prov 3:5-6, Romans 8:28-30, 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Psalm 2, Isaiah 9:1-7

Read "The Unexpected Lessons of Samson" – <https://bit.ly/samsonlessons>

Read about some of the great Christmas prophecies
– <https://bit.ly/propheticchorus>

Read about God's sovereign purpose for Christmas
– <https://bit.ly/sovereignchristmas>

Listen to "O Come, All You Unfaithful" – <https://bit.ly/comeallyouunfaithful>

Listen to "His Mercy is More" – https://bit.ly/HisMercyIsMore_

Read *Come Let Us Adore Him* by Paul David Tripp
– a great Advent devotional

The "Jesse Tree" is a great activity for families at Christmas – great for young kids – check it out here: <https://www.faithward.org/jesse-tree/>