

Judges 16:1-22

1. At the beginning of chapter 16, Samson goes to Gaza (about 35 miles southwest of his home in Zorah). No reason is given for this visit but while he is there, this impulsive man spends the night with a prostitute. When the Philistines of Gaza hear of Samson's presence in the city, what do they do (v. 2)?
2. Samson doesn't stick around until morning but instead wakes up at midnight. What does he do to escape (v.3)?
3. Sometime later (but starting in verse 4), we read of the third woman (at least) with whom Samson has been involved? What is her name? How did Samson feel about her?
4. Like the other two women, Delilah was likely a Philistine. And the Philistine rulers devise a plot to capture Samson. Perhaps there were five rulers, one for each of the major Philistine cities. What do they hire Delilah to do? How much do they offer to pay her?
5. What might this transaction say about Delilah's feelings for Samson?
6. Samson teases Delilah and proposes three ways that Samson would become weak and like any other man.
What are the 3 lies?
 - a. If they bind me with: _____ (v.7)
 - b. If they bind me tightly with: _____ (v.11)
 - c. If you weave the seven locks of my hair: _____ (v.13)

What does Delilah say each time she thinks she has Samson asleep and weakened (vv. 9, 12, 14)?

She has the Philistine men hide in an inner room and seems to be testing the success or failure of each of these methods before she actually has them show themselves.

7. What brings Samson to finally tell Delilah the source of his great strength (vv. 15-16)?
8. The source of Samson's strength was not in his hair but in the supernatural enablement of the Spirit of God. But having his hair cut would reflect his disobedience to the Lord through his Nazirite vow (13:4-5). What tragic words do we read in verse 20?
9. What do the Philistines do to Samson in verse 21?
10. During this discouraging time for Samson, what final ray of hope do we see in verse 22? During dark seasons in your life, what promises of God provide you hope?