

# UNEARTHED

Digging beneath the surface and bringing our whole selves before God.

Samson: “How to Lose Yourself” Group Discussion Guide (~65 minutes needed)

**Begin your group by catching up + by reading the recap of Sunday’s sermon below (10 minutes).**

Follow up on your responses from last week when you discussed, “What is something the Lord has been teaching you lately?” Has God revealed or deepened anything in you this past week?

RECAP: This week, we are looking at the story of Samson. Early in his life, Samson was set apart for the Lord and blessed with immense physical strength by God. However, he struggled with his desires and often succumbed to the temptations of his sinful nature. His lust for women led him into forbidden relationships, such as his ill-fated marriage to a Philistine woman named Delilah. Blinded by his passions, Samson ultimately revealed the secret of his strength, resulting in his capture, torture, and downfall at the hands of his enemies. This story serves to caution us against the destructive consequences of yielding to the slavery of sin.

**Read Samson’s story in Scripture together and discuss (20 minutes).**

Take turns reading through Samson’s story (**Judges 13-16**) out loud together as a group.

1. Briefly summarize the specifics of Samson’s story.
2. In what ways was Samson blinded by his passions?
3. How is Jesus a better and greater Samson?

**Break into smaller groups to debrief the sermon and discuss deeper (25 minutes).**

Reflect on the following questions:

1. How have your desires and impulses led you down a path of self-destruction, similar to Samson's experience? What can you learn from his story to avoid repeating those mistakes?
2. How have the sinful desires and impulses of others negatively affected you?
3. In his sermon, Emerson talked about the nature of sin (it’s tyrannical), the character of sin (it’s incessant), and the trajectory of sin (it leads to death). Which of these three points have you experienced most deeply in your own life? Explain.
4. How can you cultivate a greater awareness of the potential harm (the trajectory of sin) that sinful behaviors can cause to yourself and others?

5. Reflecting on Samson's journey, what lessons can you draw regarding the importance of humility, seeking God's guidance, and relying on His strength rather than your own? How can you apply these lessons to your own life to find freedom from the bondage of sin?
6. What else resonated with you, challenged you, or deepened your faith from this sermon?
7. What other passages are informative when it comes to thinking about sin and overcoming it?

**Finish with prayer (10 minutes).**

Once finished, take a few moments to be silent, listening to the Lord. Reflect on anything from your discussion and from the Scriptures that you feel would be good to pray on. Then, pray that.

Once finished with this silence and prayer, take turns sharing prayer requests.

End your group time with prayer out loud for one another.

**EXTRA:**

1. If you did not complete it during group time, do the Samson practice in your Unearthed devotional book (found on pages 81-82).
2. Also, be sure to listen to this week's Unearthed bonus podcast episode which you can find on our website at [thecreek.org/unearthed](http://thecreek.org/unearthed).
3. Check out this video from Timothy Keller as he explores how to see the gospel in the Book of Judges: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olwO8NHIdm0>