

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: Has it Come to This? A Journey Through Judges and the Cost of Compromise

Part 9: The Loose Cannon

BIG Idea: God-given strength becomes dangerous when desire, anger, and impulse are not surrendered to God.

Application: Do not mistake gifting, opportunity, or even spiritual empowerment for spiritual maturity. Ask where God is calling you back before your strength becomes a weapon in the hands of your appetite.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: Have you ever had a movie, show, or game spoiled for you? Did knowing the ending make you less interested, or did you still enjoy the story along the way?

1. Why do you think knowing Samson's ending can cause us to miss the warning signs earlier in his life?
2. Judges 13:1 does not record Israel crying out to God. What does that reveal about the spiritual condition of Israel?
3. What are some ways compromise can become "normal" in a believer's life?
4. The sermon said, "Sometimes the most dangerous compromise is not the thing we are fighting. It is the thing we have stopped fighting." Where do you see that principle in Judges 13?
5. In Judges 14, Samson sees, wants, and demands. How does that pattern show up in people today?
6. What is the difference between having a calling from God and being formed in godly character?
7. How can parents, grandparents, and spiritual mentors help form loves and desires, not just manage behavior?
8. In Judges 15, Samson wins battles but is still governed by reaction. Why is "winning" not always the same as walking in the Spirit?
9. Samson finally calls out to God when he reaches the end of himself. What would it look like for you to call on the God who called you first?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, show us where compromise has become normal, where desire has pulled us off course, and where we have cared more about winning than surrendering. Teach us to call on You honestly, and form in us lives ruled by Your Spirit. Amen.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026. <https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>