



# LIFE GROUPS 2019

NLC Life Group Study

Week of September 15, 2019

OLD SCHOOL | SAMSON

# Life Group Schedule

**30 MIN** Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN** Ice Breaker: **Word Link**. Ask the group to sit in a circle. The first person starts with any word they choose (ex: “red”). The next person repeats the first word and adds another word which links to the first (ex: “red tomato”). The next person repeats the previous words and adds another word link (ex: “red tomato soup”), and so on. To keep this moving, only allow five seconds for each word link.

**TRANSITION:** As you’re gathering, spend some time in **WORSHIP & PRAYER**.

**45 MIN | OLD SCHOOL—SAMSON**

**JUDGES 13–16**

**BIO OF SAMSON:**

- He was a Nazirite, he had superhuman strength, and he was a womanizer.

**JUDGES 13:24-25**

- The Spirit of the Lord began to stir him, just as the Spirit of the Lord is stirring some of you. He’s stirring you up to do something for Him.
  - › He’s stirring you up. Speaking to you. Challenging you. Nudging you.
  - › He’s breaking you out of your comfort zone.
  - › For some of you he’s stirring you to be a Godly leader.
  - › Some of you are being stirred up to get rid of some things in your life.
  - › He’s stirring you to be a lover of people. To show compassion and mercy.
  - › Some of you he’s stirring you to spend the rest of your life serving people and building a legacy that you can pass on to your kids and pass on to the people that you influence.
- That’s what the Spirit of the Lord does. He stirs us up in the right direction.
- Samson was set apart by God to deliver Israel but he never delivered himself from this one thing his life: LUST. Here’s a simple definition of lust:
  - › LUST—“a strong craving or desire”
  - › Samson was derailed by craving the wrong things.
  - › Lust is often used in relation to sex. But one can lust for anything.

**READ 1 JOHN 3:16-17 (NIV)**

- Q1.** What has God been nudging you about lately?
- Q2.** What’s your first (or next) step toward that?
- Q3.** Who can you name right now who will hold you accountable for that?

**SAMSON’S LUST PROBLEM**

1. A lust for Fantasy. **(SEE JUDGES 14:1–3)**

**DEFINITIONS FOR FANTASY:** “Imaginative power,” “Creation of mental images,” “Impractical idea,” “Genre of fiction”

- Some of us can have a fantasy for the perfect marriage.
  - › Women may think that when we get married our lives will be complete. That man will complete me. That woman will complete.
  - › Single women may think “If I just had my knight in shining armor to romance me and be sweet to me.”
  - › Single men may think “If I could just have sex and ....”
  - › The reality is marriage doesn’t complete. Marriage is not two halves making a whole. Only God can make us whole.
- Often people already in marriage have a fantasy for getting out of their marriage.
  - › “If I could just get out of this I would be happier.”
  - › “If I could just date again.”
  - › “If I could just be with someone else who loved me.”
  - › All marriages begin with energy and excitement. But the stats show that over half of them wish they were single again. The pain is too much.
  - › What’s worse than being single and wishing your were married is being married and wishing you were single.
- There’s also the fantasy for money.
  - › That if you just has more money it would make you happy. That’s not real.
- Pornography is fantasy.
- Materialism is fantasy.
- Popularity is fantasy.
- Sometimes we can let our fantasies drive us to the **WRONG PLACES** in our life.
  - › Computer in the Bonus Room of your house.
  - › The friendly and flirtatious co-workers at the office.
  - › Political conversations with your kid.
  - › Business Trips.
  - › Dark Rooms.
- Be careful about the places you put yourself in.

**Judges 14:14**

- Lust for sugar!

**WE MUST BE DRIVEN BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD.**

**Q4.** What drives you, what motivates you on the daily? What gets you out of bed?

2. A lust for revenge. **(SEE JUDGES 15:1–7; ROMANS 12:19)**

3. 3. A lust for power. **(SEE JUDGES 16:18–21)**

- Jesus would succeed in every place that Samson failed.
  - › Unlike Samson, Jesus would never compromise.
- Samson caved in to the culture.
  - › Jesus confronted the culture.
- Samson was driven by his emotions and impulses.

- › Jesus was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness and stayed strong.
- Samson was determined to get revenge.
  - › But Jesus, who had angels at his dispense, never retaliated.
- Samson was rebellious and defiant to counsel.
  - › Jesus lived his life with this prayer, “Your kingdom come your will be done.”
- Jesus would come years later to actually deliver Israel.
  - › What Samson was called to do but could never do JESUS DID!
- Samson’s outward strength is impressive, but it can never truly lead us to change. Because what we most need isn’t a strong role model; what we need is a weak and broken Savior, someone who would give us his strength and save us from ourselves.
- The irony of Samson was that he was strong on the outside, but terribly weak on the inside. In that way, he’s like so many of us. And when you see and believe what Jesus did for you—that he who was strong became weak for you; that he who was rich became poor for you; that the righteous became sin for you; that Life himself underwent death for you ... then, and only then, will you receive the moral strength to live the way.

**Q5.** Where are you weak right now that you need Jesus to show up?

**TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAY OVER NEEDS**