

# Rise Up: Bringing Leaders to Life

## Week 3: Sunday, March 26 - Samson

### The Consistent Leader

**You will either experience the pain of DISCIPLINE or you will experience the pain of REGRET**

### Samson Started Well

***Judges 13:2-7** - 2 In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was unable to become pregnant, and they had no children. 3 The angel of the Lord appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. 4 So be careful; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. 5 You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and his hair must never be cut. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to rescue Israel from the Philistines."*

### God was with Samson

- Killed a lion with his bare hands
- Killed 30 men, captured 300 foxes and torched the fields
- Killed 1,000 Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey
- Ruled Israel for 20 years

**Consistency requires HOLINESS** - Leaders fail when they dilute the original mission that drove them

***Judges 16:1-3** - 1 One day Samson went to the Philistine town of Gaza and spent the night with a prostitute. 2 Word soon spread that Samson was there, so the men of Gaza gathered together and waited all night at the town gates. They kept quiet during the night, saying to themselves, "When the light of morning comes, we will kill him." 3 But Samson stayed in bed only until midnight. Then he got up, took hold of the doors of the town gate, including the two posts, and lifted them up, bar and all. He put them on his shoulders and carried them all the way to the top of the hill across from Hebron.*

**Consistency requires HUMILITY** - Leaders fail when their success distracts them

***Judges 16:4-5** - 4 Some time later Samson fell in love with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. 5 The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver."*

**Judges 16:17-20** - 17 Finally, Samson shared his secret with her. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else." 18 Delilah realized he had finally told her the truth, so she sent for the Philistine rulers. "Come back one more time," she said, "for he has finally told me his secret." So the Philistine rulers returned with the money in their hands. 19 Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and then she called in a man to shave off the seven locks of his hair. In this way she began to bring him down, and his strength left him. 20 Then she cried out, "Samson! The Philistines have come to capture you!" When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the Lord had left him.

**Consistency requires HONESTY** - Leaders fail when their weaknesses go unaddressed

**Samson did not finish well**

**A good start helps, but a good finish is up to you!**

**You will either experience the pain of DISCIPLINE or you will experience the pain of REGRET**

**How do I want to finish?**