

## **Discipleship Notes 4: September 2020**

### **“Samson and Delilah”**

#### **Judges 16: 1-22**

#### **Opening Worship:**

Read: Psalm 40: 1-17

How is God described in this Psalm.

Suggest some of the ways God may lead us.

As a group spend some time in prayer worshipping our heavenly Father.

#### **Thought:**

As a group try to list as many real or fictional superheroes as you can recall?

For each of your chosen superheroes list some of the qualities that make them a hero or heroine.

#### **Welcome**

The story of Samson is probably not one that we would read to young children. If we thought about it, we might be reluctant to even read it in church. Samson has certainly lived an interesting life!

Marriage followed swiftly by a messy break up.

Mass murder.

Betrayal.

And that is not to mention illicit sexual encounters.

What a mess!

How on earth did Samson end up in the Bible? And as a leader of God's people?

As we encounter Samson and Delilah, we need to get beyond the mess in order to ask where is God in this? And as we look for God in this story, perhaps too we need to look out for what Samson is saying to us today.

**Read: Judges 16: 1-22**

- Why did Samson visit Gaza? Can you suggest some reasons as to why this was a bad idea?
- What might be the equivalent of 'Gaza' for followers of Jesus today?
- What happens in Gaza?
- Describe the character of Delilah.
- The song lyrics go: Why, Why, Why Delilah?  
So, why did Delilah get involved with Samson? Why do you think Samson got involved with Delilah?
- What is the secret of Samson's strength?
- What is the source of Samson's weaknesses?
- At the end of chapter 16, how do you think the following people felt about the situation:
  - i) Samson
  - ii) Delilah
  - iii) The Philistines
  - iv) The Israelites

**Read: 2 Corinthians 10: 1-11**

- How would you describe the character of Paul?
- What characteristics do we look for in leaders today?
- Do you think the people of Israel got the leader they deserved?

**Prayer Pointers:**

- Pray for our church members and our church meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- We remember those who lead our nation at this difficult time
- We pray for an end to Covid-19 and for all those working on solutions