

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Judges 13:1-7 & 24-25

Sunday, June 25, 2017

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What can happen if a church or denomination abandons God and the Law of God (or the Bible’s teachings) as the Israelites did in the Old Testament?

Leaders and people can come under the loving discipline of God. If they do not repent and turn back to God, God’s punishment will continue until they repent or God sends leaders and revivals, and draws them back to repentance, Biblical faith and obedience.

2. Why was it important for God to set a certain length of time to punish His people instead of leaving the length of punishment undetermined?

Though they never knew in advance how long their punishment would be, they did know from their history that if they repented and turned back to God that God would help them and save them from their enemies according to His timing. Their punishment on earth might last decades, but it would come to an end and God would accomplish His purposes. Perhaps the Kingdom of Israel took God and this truth for granted, because when the nation continued to rebel against God, God destroyed the kingdom in 722 BC.

3. What benefits did Samson enjoy while growing up?

He knew his parents had talked to the angel of the LORD, and he knew God had called him into His service. He drank no strong drink to interfere with his development. As a Nazirite, he knew he was special and had special laws to obey to serve God rightly. He

probably anticipated being a judge to save his people from the Philistines. He was raised in a godly home and taught the Law of God by his parents.

4. Today, how does God teach parents how to raise their children?

Through the Bible, through the Church as leaders and teachers teach how to live according to the Bible as believers follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, and through the Holy Spirit who interprets the Bible and guides Christians daily.

5. Samson's parents followed the LORD's instructions, but Samson chose how he would live after he became an adult. Why do you think he made some wrong choices during his time as judge over the Israelites?

The Bible says we fight against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and though Samson was physically strong, he sometimes lost his battles against worldly temptations, the desires of his own flesh and emotions, and the devil's attacks as the devil helped the Philistines. Though imperfect, as is every human being except Jesus, the Son of God, God used Samson to save His people in this world. Because Jesus is perfect God and perfect Man, He can save believers in Him for eternity.

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