

LAW + DISORDER

THE DAYS WHEN THE JUDGES RULED

Samson at First

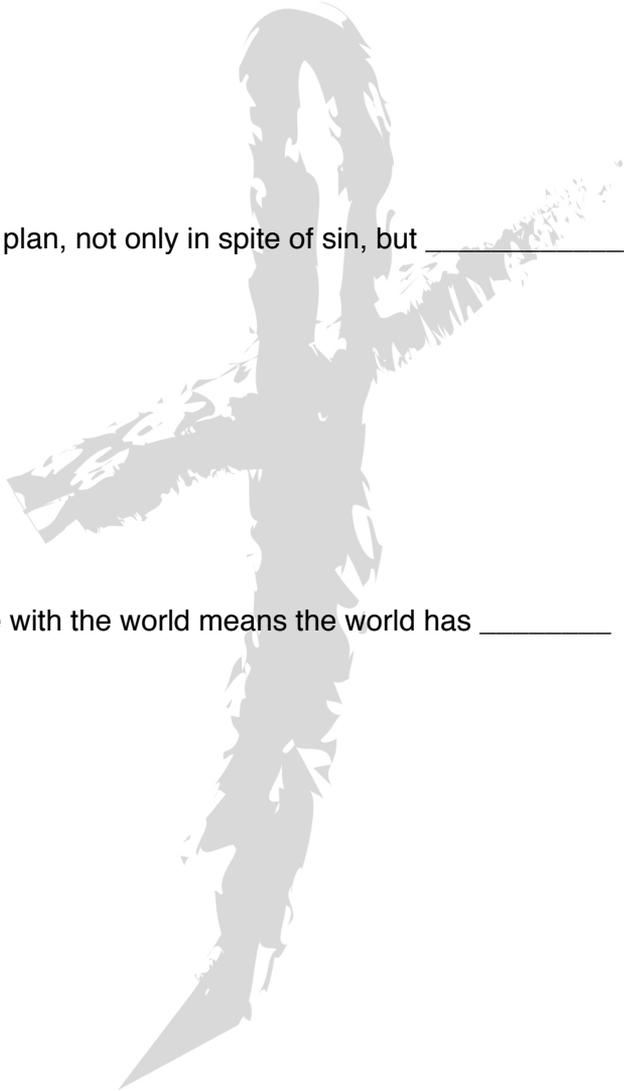
Judges 13:1-15:20

Sermon Notes

A _____ is born

God works his plan, not only in spite of sin, but _____ sin

To be at peace with the world means the world has _____



Life Group Questions

Getting Started

1. Which one influences the other the most, the world or the church?

Sermon

2. Of all the Judges, Samson is best known, followed by Gideon. Deborah is somewhat known, but hardly anyone knows about Othniel. And yet, when it comes to righteousness, Othniel and Deborah are far more godly than Gideon and Samson. Why do you think we tell the stories of the “bad” judges more than the good ones?

Scripture

Read Judges 13:1-25

3. Based on the introduction to Samson in this chapter, before he is born and without knowing the rest of the story, what do you think the life of Samson is going to be like?

4. When Monoah and his wife realize they had seen God, Monoah was terrified and his wife was comforted (vv 22-23). Who is the proper response? Explain.

Read Judges 14:1-7

5. Samson takes an idolatrous Philistine as a wife, yet God uses this sin to accomplish his purposes against the Philistines. In fact, repeatedly, the Spirit of the Lord rushes upon him (v 4, 19). Do you find this appalling? Confusing? Encouraging? Explain why God would mix his power with Samson's sin.

Read Judges 15:1-15

6. Although Samson is very strong, he has many weaknesses. What are some of those weaknesses?

Study

7. Samson's parents plead with Samson not to take a wife from the "uncircumcised Philistines" (Judges 14:3).
 - Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1. What partnerships are being described here? Why are these partnerships dangerous?
 - Make two lists from this passage, one the way believers are described and the other describing unbelievers. Do you agree with the descriptions in each list? Is the contrast really that extreme?

Taking It Home

8. Repeatedly, Israel does what is evil in the sight of the Lord (Judges 13:1; see also, 2:11; 3:7, 12; 4:1; 6:1; 10:6). But in Samson's sight, he justifies his sin as "right in my eyes" (Judges 14:3, 7). How do the following verses help you see the world through the eyes of God?

- Proverbs 14:12

- Matthew 6:22-23

Prayer

How can your Life Group be praying for you this week?