

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of September 27, 2026

Icebreaker Questions

- What is something you're naturally really good at?
- What's one habit that helps you stay grounded when life gets busy?
- What's one piece of advice you ignored when you were younger but now realize was probably right?

Sermon Summary

(If you missed this week's sermon, it's always available by noon on Monday on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@horizoncommunitychurch>)

God's sovereignty is greater than the mess we create, and Judges 13–14 shows that God can accomplish His purposes even through flawed people and difficult circumstances. Samson's calling came before his accomplishments, reminding us that our purpose and value begin with God rather than our performance. Yet Samson's supernatural gifting did not produce godly character, demonstrating that giftedness is never a substitute for godliness. His story warns us that strength, success, influence, and spiritual gifting without character can create a train wreck, while God's sovereignty does not excuse our sin or remove the consequences of our choices. The call is therefore not merely, "God, use me," but "God, change me," fixing our eyes on Jesus, repenting of sin, and becoming the people God has called us to be.

Opening Prayer

Briefly pray and invite the Lord into your conversations to bring wisdom and insight to His Word. Pray around the theme for the sermon/discussion.

Primary Passage of Scripture

Read Judges 13:3–5, Judges 14:5–6, Ephesians 2:10, Hebrews 12:2

Discussion Questions

- What stands out most to you about the fact that God called Samson before he had accomplished anything?
- What does Samson's story teach us about the difference between calling and accomplishment?
- How does knowing that your value begins with God, not your performance, change the way you view yourself?
- What is the difference between being gifted by God and being formed by God?
- How can one person's lack of character affect the people around them?
- What is the difference between trusting God with our failures and using God's grace as an excuse for our failures?
- What would it look like in your life to change the prayer "God, use me" into "God, change me"?

Prayer

- Ask: "How can we pray for you this week?"
- Assign each request to a group member to ensure everyone is prayed for during the prayer time.
- Assign someone to open in prayer and someone to close in prayer.

Closing