

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 4, 2026

Icebreaker Questions

- What's one warning label you routinely ignore?
- What's a piece of advice you ignored and later wished you had followed?
- What is something you have learned that you want to ensure you pass along to others?

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>)

Compromise rarely happens all at once; it is a gradual surrender to temptation that eventually produces consequences we never intended. Samson repeatedly ignored God's warnings, believing he could continue compromising without consequences. His captivity began long before the chains appeared. The enemy's strategy is to lead us into small compromises today so that he can destroy what God has entrusted to us tomorrow. The Holy Spirit and God's Word provide warnings before we reach the point of destruction. Yet Samson's story also demonstrates that failure does not mean God is finished with us—when Samson humbled himself and surrendered his brokenness back to God, the Lord still used his life. We are called to shut the door to compromise, listen to God's warnings, repent of sin, and place our brokenness in the hands of Jesus, the perfect deliverer whose grace brings forgiveness and restoration.

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 Passages of Scripture

Read Judges 16:15–21, Judges 16:28–30, Matthew 11:28, Luke 4:12, Galatians 5:19–21

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think compromise is often gradual rather than one major decision?
- How can repeated exposure to temptation change the way we perceive sin?
- How can we distinguish between legitimate freedom in Christ and rationalizing sinful behavior?
- How can the conviction of the Holy Spirit function like the warning light described in the sermon?
- Why is it dangerous to repeatedly ignore the Holy Spirit's conviction?
- What does Jesus' response to temptation in Luke 4 teach us about resisting compromise?
- What is the difference between genuine repentance and simply regretting the consequences of our choices?
- What would it look like for you to “surrender your present to God” even if you cannot undo your past?

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