



## WORD

<sup>4</sup>Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah. <sup>5</sup>The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, "See if you can lure him into showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels of silver." JUDGES 16:4,5

## WHAT

Samson was a Bible character who had extraordinary strength but had character lapses especially in his relationships with women. Even if God chose him for a special purpose, he married a Philistine, got involved with a prostitute, and then fell again for another Philistine named Delilah. His compromises eventually led to his downfall and miserable death. What lessons can we learn from Samson's story?

### 1 True love is not selfish but selfless.

*Love is not rude, it is not selfish, and it cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:5 (ERV)

Samson was selfish—he only did what he thought was good for him and did not consider his great calling from God, his parents, and people. However, God's Word teaches us a love that is selfless and the kind that thinks of others before self. How is selfishness expressed in our generation today? How will selflessness benefit our godly relationships?

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### 2 True love does not give in to immorality and ungodliness.

*Love is not happy with sin. Love is happy with the truth.*

1 CORINTHIANS 13:6 (NLV)

*Stop forming inappropriate relationships with unbelievers. Can right and wrong be partners? Can light have anything in common with darkness?* 2 CORINTHIANS 6:14 (GW)

Samson got himself involved in immoral and ungodly relationships, which caused his downfall. God commands us in His Word to not make unholy partnerships with those whose lives are not surrendered to Jesus. Genuine love does not delight in sin but rejoices in the truth. It does not compromise our love for God and faith in Him. How does the love of God help you to say "no" to sin?

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### 3 Jesus Christ is the only source of true love.

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.* 1 JOHN 3:16

Christ's love for us is unconditional—He loved us while we were still sinners. Our love fails from time to time but God's love never fails. Therefore, we must accept Christ's love in our lives so that we can share it to our families, friends, and other people around us. How did Christ's love touch and change your life?

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