



# The Library

Old Testament Stories For Today

# Punchline

**God makes a way even when we lose our  
way**



# Samson's Background

## ★ Born a Nazarite

- No wine, no food from grapes, not near a corpse, and cannot cut hair



# Samson's Background

- ★ Shown amazing strength
- ★ Broken parts of his Nazarite vow
- ★ Developed a feud with the Philistines



**Some time later, he fell in love with a woman  
in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.**



**Judges 14: 4 NIV**

**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 14: 5 NIV**

**So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be tied up and subdued.” Samson answered her, “If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”**



**Judges 14: 6-7 NIV**

**Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she tied him with them.**



**Judges 14: 8 NIV**



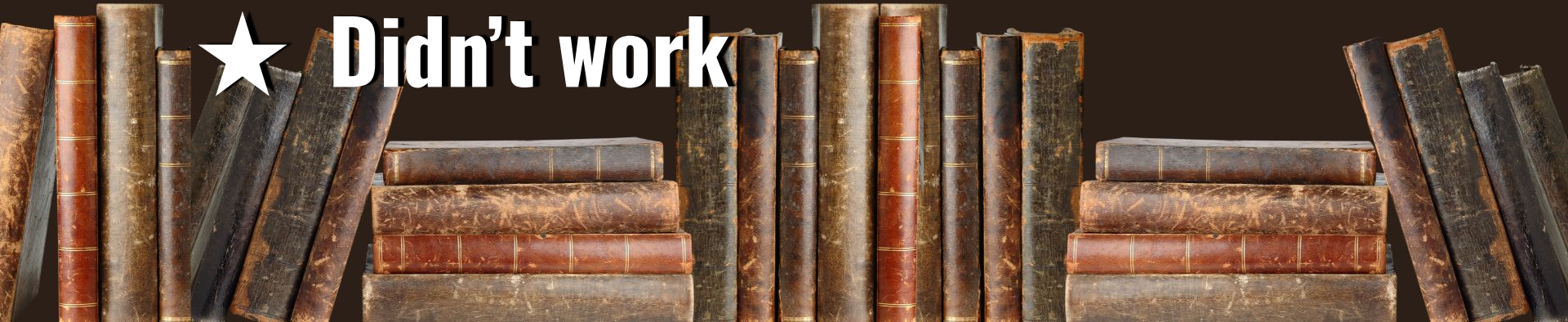
**With men hidden in the room, she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.**




**Judges 14: 9 NIV**

# Samson & Delilah - Try #1

- ★ Samson falls in “love”
- ★ Delilah is offered money for the secret to Samson’s strength
- ★ Tries 7 fresh bowstrings
- ★ Didn’t work



**Then Delilah said to Samson, “You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell me how you can be tied.” He said, “If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”**



**Judges 14: 10-11 NIV**

**So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.**



**Judges 14: 12 NIV**

# Samson & Delilah - Try #2

- ★ “You made a fool me”
- ★ Tries new ropes that have never been used
- ★ Didn't work



**Delilah then said to Samson, “All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to me. Tell me how you can be tied.” He replied, “If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”**



**Judges 14: 13a NIV**

**So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric and tightened it with the pin. Again she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.**

**Judges 14: 13b-14 NIV**

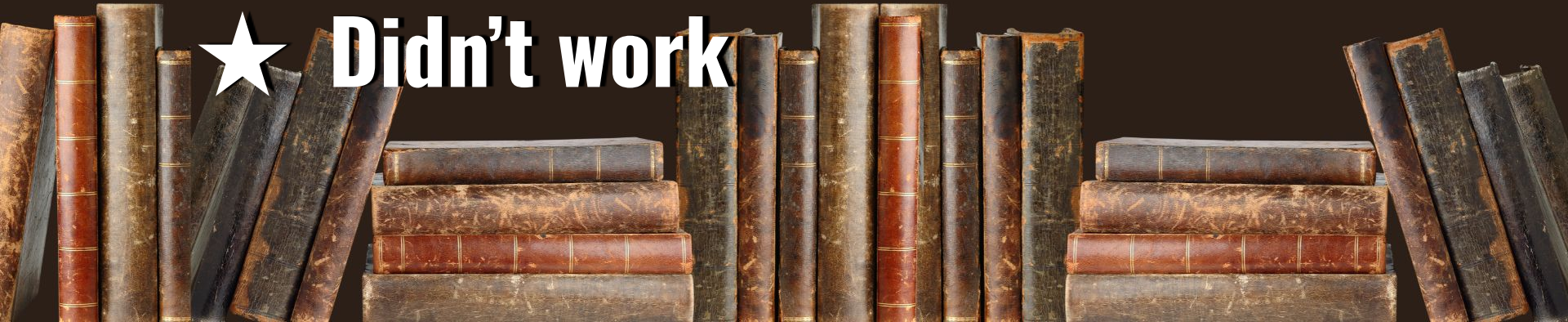


# Samson & Delilah - Try #3

★ “You’re making a mockery of me”

★ Weave 7 braids into the fabric of the loom and tighten it with the pin

★ Didn't work





**Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of it.**



**Judges 14: 15-16 NIV**

**So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”**



**Judges 14: 17 NIV**

**When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.**



**Judges 14: 18 NIV**

**After putting him to sleep on her lap, she called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue him. And his strength left him.**



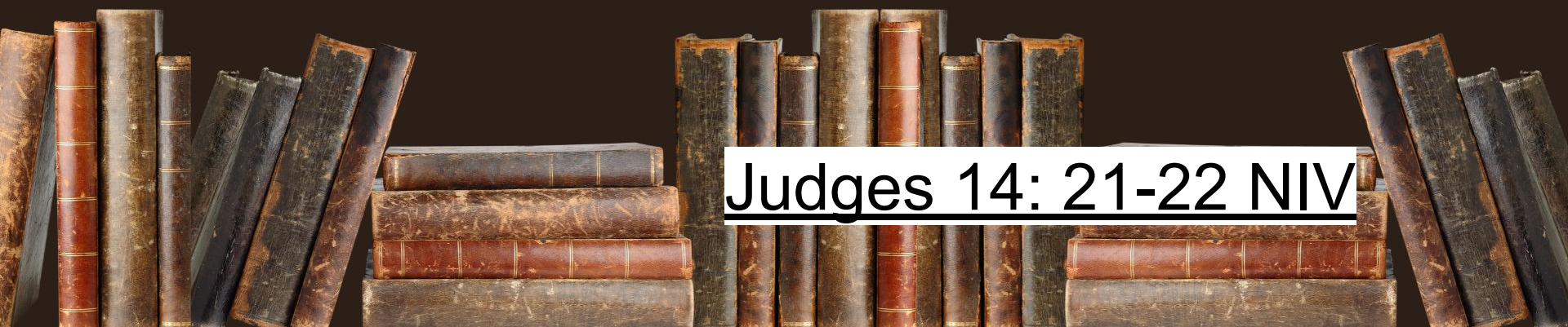
**Judges 14: 19 NIV**

**Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.**



**Judges 14: 20 NIV**

**Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.**



**Judges 14: 21-22 NIV**

# Samson & Delilah - Try #4

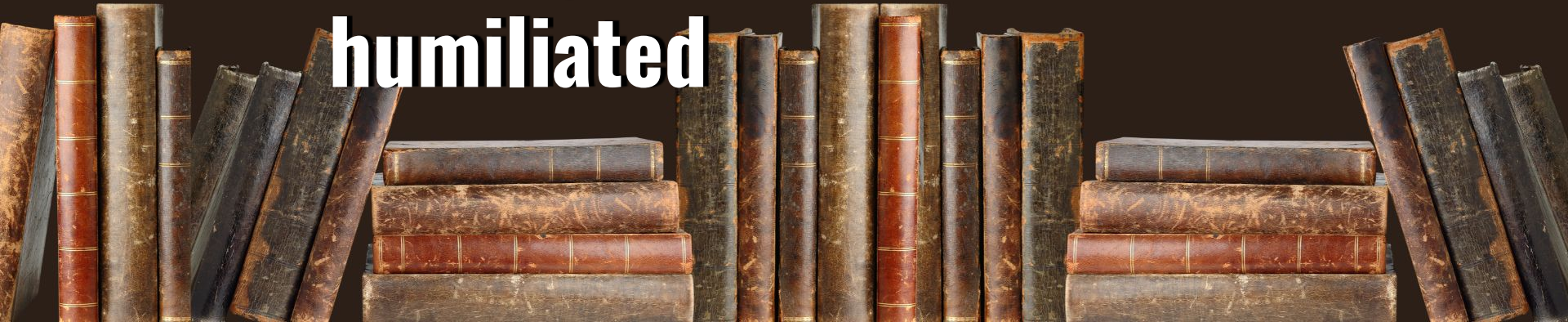
★ “How can you love me if you don’t tell me the truth?”

★ Samson relents and tells Delilah



# Samson & Delilah - Try #4

- ★ Samson's strength left him
- ★ He's captured and his eyes are gouged out
- ★ The big, strong, champion is now humiliated





# Lost the Way.



# We Forget How We're Made

- ★ We are made to worship
- ★ We lose our way when the songs of God aren't what is guiding us
- ★ We forget we're made by God's design



# Use Our Gifts Selfishly

- ★ Using our gifts in a way that doesn't please God
- ★ Holding our gifts back from God



# Guided By Pleasure Not Purpose

- ★ Sensual or sexual pleasure
- ★ The pleasure of approval
- ★ Pleasure over purpose leads to losing our way



# Weakness



# Don't see what's going on Around Us

## ★ The good

- We're focused on satisfying our sin
- Aren't able to see what God is doing around us



# Don't see what's going on Around Us

## ★ The bad

- The good feeling can hurt us
- We don't realize the damage we're doing to ourselves



# Don't see what's going on Around Us

## ★ The bad

- The damage we do to others
  - People as means to an end
  - Relationships as transactions that benefit us





# Weaken Our Connection With God

- ★ Sin pulls us from the vine (Jesus)
- ★ Sin rejects the vine
- ★ When our connection to Jesus is weakened we are weakened



# Weaken Our Connection With God

★ When our connection is weakened

- Our strength is weakened
- Our peace is weakened
- Our guidance is weakened



**Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.”**



**Judges 14: 23 NIV**

**When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying, “Our god has delivered our enemy into our hands, the one who laid waste our land and multiplied our slain.”**



**Judges 14: 24 NIV**

**While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them. When they stood him among the pillars**



**Judges 14: 25 NIV**

**Samson said to the servant who held his hand,  
“Put me where I can feel the pillars that  
support the temple, so that I may lean against  
them.”**



**Judges 14: 26 NIV**

**Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform.**



**Judges 14: 27 NIV**

**Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.”**



**Judges 14: 28 NIV**



**Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other,**



**Judges 14: 29 NIV**

**Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!”  
Then he pushed with all his might, and down  
came the temple on the rulers and all the  
people in it. Thus he killed many more when he  
died than while he lived.**



**Judges 14: 30 NIV**

# The Death of Samson

- ★ Belief was Dagon delivered Samson to the Philistines
- ★ Philistines wanted Samson to “perform” for them



# The Death of Samson

- ★ Samson prays one more time
- ★ God remembers and answers him
- ★ Samson crushes the temple  
killing many people and himself



# The Death of Samson

- ★ God still used Samson after all he had done
- ★ Samson reconnected with God



# Reconnect



# See Our Weaknesses

- ★ Talk to God about them
- ★ Take action - **WITH GOD**
- ★ Work through weakness with God



# See How We've Lost Our Way

- ★ One event
- ★ Series of events
- ★ This can be a very isolating feeling





# Reconnect With The Cross

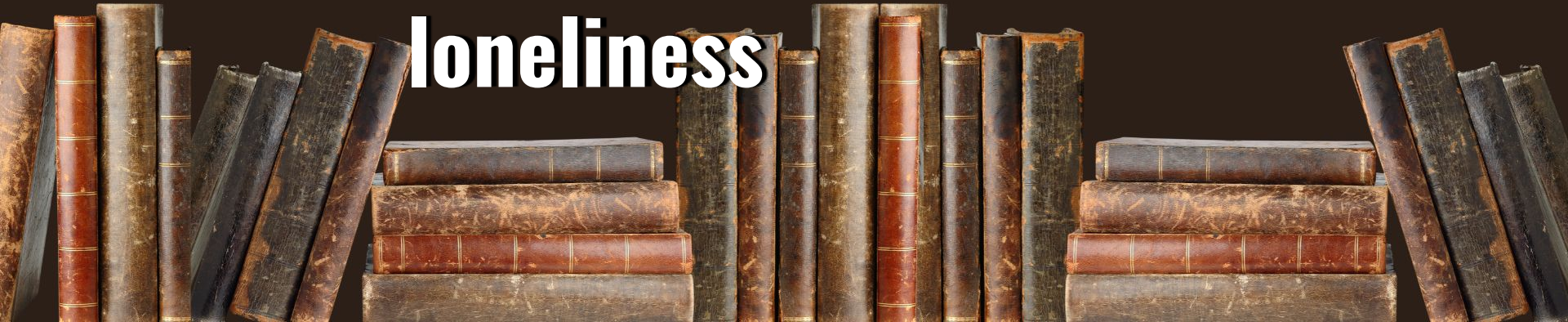
- ★ Addresses weakness and get us back on God's path
- ★ Remember the cross represents sacrificial love



# Reconnect With The Cross

## ★ Sacrificial love

- Pulls us all the way back to God
- The love of God who wants to be with us in our weakness and loneliness



# Reconnect With The Cross

## ★ Sacrificial love

- The love of God who says “I forgive you, you have another shot, and I still want you as my own”

