



# Our Shadow Temptations are Real

Week of October 4, 2015

These discussion questions can be used the week following the message.

You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your Connect Group discussions.

## Message Recap:

*Our fight against temptation is a daily fight. It is a fight of self-denial and discipline through conscious daily effort and firm resolution to constantly stay on course.*

Read Hebrews 12:1-2

Read Judges 13:3-5

Looking at the life of Samson in Judges 13:3-5 we can shed light into a simple but delicate urge; the desires and struggles we face daily that tend to weigh us down. When we get caught up in our struggles and desires, we can lose sight of our commitments to Jesus. Like Samson, our dreams are big and nothing can stop us from fulfilling our dreams in life—except maybe ourselves. It was easy for Peter to deny Jesus! It was also easy for Samson to break his Nazarite Vows! This pattern of easiness often happens when we break the promises to live and love Jesus.

## Pray

You are my all-sufficient sacrifice freely given for my freedom. Free me Lord from the works of the flesh dragging me down daily from my commitments to live, love and serve freely. Replace my urges, desires and struggles with your strength and grant me victory in this fight.

#StayInTheFightatSR

## Getting Started

- Share a story about a time when you had to walk away and take a deep breath knowing if you continued in your conversation or actions, it could lead to a regret.
- You know quite well the types of temptations you face daily; how can you fight these with God's grace and help? Share an example or a verse that has helped you.

## Listening Deeply

1. Why is temptation an important trial element of our journey as believers in Jesus?
2. Share some key differences between the temptations Jesus faced in the desert (Matthew 4:1-11) with the ones Samson faced. Are these any different than the temptations we face daily?
3. Samson had declared Nazarite Vows. Describe what a vow is, and the significance of vows in running our race as believers.
4. Pastor Ron said the dream God gave to Samson was big and nothing could stop Samson but Samson himself! Explain how God's dream for us relates to temptation in the context of goals, fulfillment, and reaching our calling in life.
5. What is the price to pay for constantly yielding to our urges, desires, habits and belittling the grace of God in our life considering the life of Samson? What is our reward if we do not yield?
6. Read Hebrews 12:1-2. What does it mean to, "...throw off everything that hinders and entangles us"? Share specific examples and ways we can throw them off.
7. How does a community of believers help us defeat temptation? Do you have any examples of when community has helped you defeat a temptation, sin, or addiction in your life?

## Living Wide in Jesus

Pastor Ron challenged us with this question, "Why does the serpent always win when we come face to face with him?" A life anchored in Jesus daily prevails over the urges, desires, habits, and struggles of temptations in our finances, family and personal lives. Temptations are inevitable but conceding to temptations is optional! Commit daily to running your race and fight hard, putting on the breastplate of righteousness in a battlefield full of spiritual garbage that constantly weighs us down. On the back of this page, write out how you will win the next time the enemy comes at you.