

# WAYMAKER

## Avoiding Life's Landmines

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I Corinthians 10:13 — No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also **provide a way out...**

### Following The Ways of the Maker:

#### 1) Don't buy the lie that you should **FOLLOW** your heart.

Judges 16:4 — Some time later, he "fell in love" with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was Delilah.

Proverbs 4:23 — Above all else, **guard your heart**, for everything you do flows from it.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus replied: "**Love the Lord your God with all your heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind

#### 2) Learn that temptation gets stronger, the more you **FLIRT** with it.

Judges 16:15-16 — Then Delilah pouted, "How can you say you love me when you don't confide in me? You've made fun of me three times now, and you still haven't told me what makes you so strong!" So day after day she nagged him until he couldn't stand it any longer.

Judges 16:17 — Finally, Samson told her his secret. "My hair has never been cut," he confessed, "for I was dedicated to God as a Nazarite from birth. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as anyone else."

#### 3) Believe that **MORE** is at stake than the immediate temptation itself.

Judges 16:19-20 — Delilah lulled Samson to sleep with his head in her lap, and she called in a man to shave off his hair, making his capture certain. ... When he woke up, he thought, "I will do as before and shake myself free." But he didn't realize the Lord had left him.

Judges 16:22 — So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and made to grind grain in the prison.

Temptation urges us to temporarily abandon what's **RIGHT** for what's **IMMEDIATE** - believing that any negative downstream consequences can be **AVOIDED**.

**4) Accept that the LORD'S plan is often HARDER and takes LONGER but is always BETTER, than any other plan.**

What the Lord wants instead...

Proverbs 3:5-6 — **Trust in the Lord with all your heart.** Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the Lord in everything you do, and He will show you the right path.

[Grace is still available... through repentance... ]

Hebrews 11:32-33 — And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who **through faith** conquered kingdoms, administered justice, **and gained what was promised...**

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Life is better in a Life Group. A Life Group is a place for friendship and spiritual growth. We come to Jesus as individuals but we live out our walk with Jesus in community.

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### **Life Group Discussion & Questions**

**BREAKING THE ICE:** Is there a kind of food or drink that you'd rather avoid, but you know "the struggle is real?" Explain.

**DIGGING IN:** Samson's life begins so promising, but ends so tragically. Read together Judges Chapter 16, to begin your study time.

1. Chapter 16 is the culminating story of Samson's life, but it is also a "window" into his mindset. From chapter 16, what are some likely beliefs that Samson held regarding his own will power, and/or regarding temptation?
2. Read I Corinthians 10:13, and then review each of the points from this Sunday's message. In what ways did Samson violate these?

3. Which of the four points stands out to you, as something you can lean into more? Explain.

**BRINGING IT HOME: More is at stake in temptation than the immediate temptation itself.** Consider who else is negatively affected if you fail to take God's way out? Consider who you are positively influencing when you do it God's way.