



DATE	August 14, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Tale of Little Sun
SERIES	The book of Judges contains some of the strangest stories you'll ever hear. These unusual stories are entertaining, confusing, dramatic and even a bit crazy. But they also contain deep spiritual insights and truths. You can't make this stuff up!

1. Share with your group what is special about the day/place you were born? Is there anything unique or that sets you apart?

2. Pastor David explains the Nazarite vow has 3 things:

- abstain from drink made from grapes
- have no contact with any dead thing
- no haircut during the vow

What do you think is the purpose of this separation and abstinence?

3. How would you assess the spirituality of Samson's parents? What were their strengths and weaknesses? How did or didn't they follow through on their commitment to raise Samson in a Nazarite environment?

4. Judges 13:1 reads "again, the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. " But Pastor David said it could be rephrased as "They did what was right in their own eyes."

What's the difference between these two phrases for you? Does rephrasing it make you more or less likely to relate to these Old Testament people? Why or why not?

5. Read Judges 13:5 . What does it mean to you to be set apart to God? How can we separate ourselves from the world. Consider Rom 12:1-2, Matt 5:16 and 1 Jn 2:15-16.

6. Pastor David gives two truths about sin. First, sin often involves a focus on feelings. Second, sin involves living in denial. Consider Psa 119:9-11, how can a focus on God's truth help us avoid living by feelings? Examine Psalm 139:23-24. What does King David do to "look within" and avoid denial?

7. In our walk with God, while pursuing "doing the right thing," how can we be transformed and not conformed? See Rom 12:2 and 1 Cor 2:16.

8. How does Scripture encourage us to develop accountability? Consider Eccl 4:9-10, Amos 3:3, Heb 3:13. What are some ways you can walk this out in your life?