



DISCUSSION GUIDE

UNCHAINED: From things that don't love you back (Judges 16:1-22)

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

What is one way in your past you've stepped out of God's "parameters" that looking back you realize was not God's best?

QUICK REACTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?

What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?

What idea, context, Scripture do you think could have been expanded on, or included in the message?

What would it mean for you to acknowledge that sometimes obeying God doesn't have to make sense?

What can often "tie us up"/chain us down, to steal our strength and God's purposes from our lives?

What from Samson's life encourages you to live in God's in God's parameters, and resist the patterns and paths that do not help us live out the strength, promises and purposes God has for us?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Judges 16:1-22]

(Yes, these questions can seem silly, however, good discussion and interpretation of the Bible begins with having a proper understanding of the basic facts; who, what, when, and where in the text.) Work through this quickly, the answers are fairly obvious.

What weakness of Samson did the Philistines use against him? (16:1-5)

What secret did the Philistines want Delilah to discover for them? (16:5)

How trustworthy was Delilah? (16:6-20)

How did Delilah convince Samson to reveal the secret of his strength? (16:15-16)

What was the source of Samson's strength, and why did he lose it? (16:17-20)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

In what way does Delilah get a bad rap in this story? Why?

In what way do you see how Samson steps out from God's protective parameters, develops dysfunctional patterns, follows his own path that then steals his power and God-given purpose?

In what way does Samson give us pause to think about our own course corrections?
How can we stay chained to our patterns (sinful, or weights) that prevent us from running the race
God sets before us? What lap can we lay our head in that does not serve us, or love us back?
What is the source of your strength?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?
What do you need to stop, start or do differently as a result of reading this passage?
How can we pray for each other?