

Getting started: When have you seen God take something you knew was bad and to your surprise turn it around for good?

Read 13:1-10**The Promise of a Son**

1. What did Manoah have no child? What did the Angel promise his wife? What instructions did the Angel give concerning the woman and the son she would bear? What designation would the son born to them be given? (vv. 2-5)
2. How did the woman describe the being that appeared to her? (v. 8) What did Manoah ask the Lord to do? (v. 8) How did God answer Manoah's prayer? (v. 9) What does that tell us about God and about our prayers?

Read 13:11-25**The Angel Returns**

3. What did Manoah want to know from the Man? What did the Angel emphasize to Manoah concerning the child? (vv. 12-13). Why would God emphasize the restrictions on diet and his hair? When are God's plans decided for our lives? (cf. Ps. 139:16-17)
4. What did Manoah ask the Angel to do? (v. 15) What did Manoah not recognize about this Man? (v. 16) When asked, what name did the Angel give to Manoah? (vv. 17-18; compare Isaiah 9:6)
5. What happened to the Angel when Manoah offered the goat upon the rock? How did Manoah and his wife respond? (vv. 19-20).

6. What did Manoah fear after the Angel of the LORD left? Why did his wife suggest that they need not worry about that? (vv. 21-23) What does this text suggest about the acumen of a woman?

Read 14:1-20**Samson's Poor Choices**

7. When Samson came of age, what woman did he become interested in? How did his parents respond? (vv. 1-3) How had God planned to turn that poor choice for good? (v. 4)
 8. What is the first instance in which we see Samson's unusual strength? (vv. 5-6) When he returned again to see the woman some time later, what did he find along the road? (vv. 6-7) What was wrong with his decision to eat the honey? (v. 9, 13:7)
 9. At a feast, how did the lion become part of the festivities? What did the Philistines do when they couldn't beat Samson at his game? (vv. 10-15) What loyalty prevailed upon Samson's wife? (vv. 16-18) What happened to Samson's wife following this event? (v. 20)
 10. How did God turn the foiled riddle into an 'occasion' against the Philistines? (v. 19)
- Going Deeper**
11. Chapter 14 reveals that God planned to use Samson's choice of a Philistine bride for good in bringing an occasion against the Philistines. Explain how God can hold us accountable for poor choices and yet use those same choices to accomplish His will. Does that make God the author of evil and therefore culpable for our choices and the sins we commit? (c.f. James 1:13-15; Gen. 50:20; Acts 2:23; Romans 8:28)