

CHAPTER THREE VERSES & EVENTS

COLORING BOOK ALL-STARS

TODAY'S VERSES

JUDGES 13:24
JUDGES 13:2-5
NUMBERS 6:7
JUDGES 14:1-9
JUDGES 14:12-14

JUDGES 15:1-6
JUDGES 15:15-16
JUDGES 16:1
JUDGES 16:4-5
JUDGES 16:15-22

JUDGES 16:28-31
JUDGES 18:1
JUDGES 18:27-31
JUDGES 18:32-34
2 COR. 12:9

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE...

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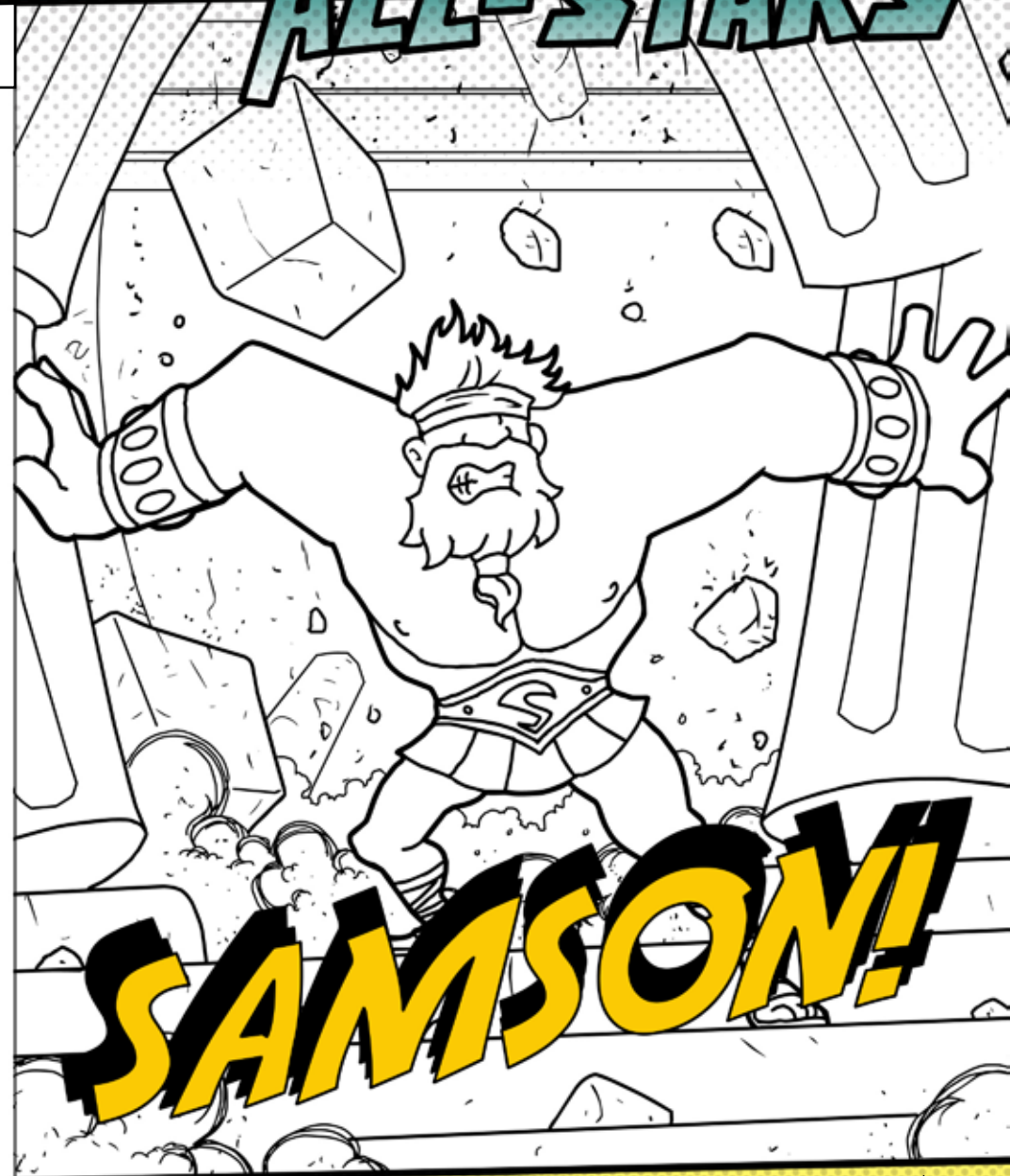
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**WOMEN'S
RETREAT**



CHAPTER THREE



SAMSON!

CHAPTER THREE

Read Judges 14:5-9

When I read the story of Samson, the first question that comes into my mind is naturally, "How far is too far?" When we read the story of Samson we learn that no sin is innocent; every compromise leads deeper into a lifestyle that dishonors God and moves us further into our own personal hell. Sin also tends to affect and infect not only the individual, but the whole community.

Samson is a Coloring Book All-Star, but when we truly read his story you will see why being a Coloring Book All-Star does not make someone a hero.

How close do you get to sin before you think it is to close?

Samson was a Nazirite, which means his whole life was defined by what was clean versus unclean. He was prohibited to come in contact with anything from vines, non-kosher food, animals, and with dead bodies. This is a tall order; if you fail the vow, you were required to shave your head and start all over again.

What do you feel you were born to do?

Samson, from birth, was called by God to save Israel by delivering them from the Philistines.

What are some sins in your life that you are tempted to brush off as innocent?

Samson's sin progression; these are what I call "gateway sins."

- First, Samson, in romantic fashion, decides his wife will be someone who is culturally forbidden (unclean).
- Second, Samson enters the vineyards of Timnah (not clean).
- Third Samson kills a lion and eats honey (clean) from the carcass (unclean, non-kosher = double unclean).

If you are like me (Jon), you might be tempted to brush these things off and downplay the effects on your own heart and soul. But the effects are far reaching since Samson, like a rebellious teenager, was pushing rules to see what he could get away with; this also made the progression of sin (from this point forward) easier for him.

Why do you think we tend to downplay the effects sin has on our lives?

Samson's sin now starts to make all of us a bit uncomfortable:

- Samson kills 30 people because they answered his riddle.
- Samson catches 300 foxes and ties torches to their tails which destroys all of the Philistine's livelihoods.
- There is retaliation for this when Samson's wife and father-in-law are burned with fire.
- Samson, in retaliation, kills 1,000 men with a jawbone of a donkey (unclean).
- Samson goes to a prostitute.
- So on and so forth... What started as something innocent leads to widespread destruction.

What happens in your life when you let your sin run rampant?

Most people will fall into an all or nothing style thinking, "Since I have sinned already, I might as well keep sinning!" When we live our lives like that, we destroy our lives, and the lives of others.

Have you ever been affected by someone else's sin?

Have you ever led someone down a path that resulted in sin in their life?

What do we do with Samson? When we read the story we tend to think of him as more of a bad guy, but we read that "the Spirit of the LORD rested upon him." It is natural to ask how God could condone Samson's actions by letting His Spirit rest on him. THIS STYLE OF THINKING IS A HUGE PROBLEM in Christianity because we think we have to clean ourselves up to have God's Spirit with us. It follows an erroneous line of logic that says if we are good enough then we get God's Spirit. Here is some truth for you: you are not good enough on your own to EARN God's blessing. The truth is none of us deserve God's blessing or His Spirit; it is all grace.

What does it mean to be a person of faith?

2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

