



STUDY GUIDE: May 11, 2025

Message Series: Strange Things

Message Title: What is God Asking of You

Teaching Pastor: Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

If you were featured in the Guinness Book of World Records, what would your talent be?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts and minds, ready to hear from Your Word. As we begin our study of Samson, we ask for wisdom and understanding. Help us to see beyond the surface of his story and into the deeper lessons You have for us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Get Started: (40 min.)

- What is the most physically strong experience you have ever had?
- What do you think strength really means—from God's perspective?

Read Judges 15.

- What stands out to you about Samson's method of revenge with the foxes? What does it reveal about his character?
- Have you ever seen a situation where revenge or retaliation made things worse? What could have stopped the cycle?
- How do the Philistines and the Israelites respond to Samson's actions? What does this tell us about leadership and fear at the time?
- In verse 14, what is the significance of "the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him"? How do God's purposes work through Samson even in his anger?

"The secret to Samson's strength - his ability to break chains or defeat the enemy or wrestle life animals - all of those special powers weren't really the result of his long hair. His power was sourced in the presence of God. When God was with him, he was strong and victorious. But when He betrayed God, walked away from God...when God was no longer with him, he was no longer plugged into the real source of his strength - which was never his hair, but was always the presence of God in his life." -Pastor Brian Hughes

Reflect and Commit: (30 min.)

Read Judges 16:4-30.

- What motivated Delilah to betray Samson? How does her persistence compare to Samson's resistance?
- Why do you think Samson revealed the secret of his strength? What does this say about his relationship with Delilah and with God?

- What changed when “the Lord had left him”? How does this moment mark a turning point in the story?
- Where do we sometimes flirt with danger or compromise, like Samson did? What are the warning signs?
- In verse 28, Samson prays again after a long silence. What does his final prayer tell us about repentance and God's mercy?

“The power available to Samson to break the strongest chains is also available to you, but you have to choose to lean into it through obedience to God. God asked 3 things of Samson...what is he asking of you? Consider your choice, because how you choose will either be the source of your power or the sorrow of your slavery. you CAN choose - God's power or your own power. And if you will choose to live a life that follows God, he will do amazing things through you.” -Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather prayer requests. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord, reveal to us how You work through flawed people and how Your purposes still stand, even when we stumble. Teach us to rely on Your strength and not our own. Help us to recognize the dangers of compromise and the power of obedience. May this time in Your Word shape our character, grow our faith, and draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.