

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

MANOAH'S WIFE

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 11 • January 9, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Zelophehad's Daughters – Deborah – and Jael** has been helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Judges 13:1-5

2. In **V1**, why were the Israelites delivered into the hands of the Philistines for forty years?
3. In **V2-3a**, how is Manoah's wife described?
4. a) Who do you think this "angel of the Lord" is?

b) According to **V3-4**, what does He say to her, and what are His instructions?
5. a) In **V5**, what information did He give her about her son? (For further description of the Nazirite vow, see **Numbers 6**.)

b) The woman had to give some things up in order to raise the boy as a Nazirite. What is it that God may be asking you to give up in order to fulfill a call that He has for your life?

SECTION II: Read Judges 13:6-25

6. In **V6-7**, how does the woman describe the messenger to her husband, and is she accurate with the information?
7. a) In **V8**, what warms your heart about Manoah's response as a soon-to-be father?

7. b) How does the LORD respond to his request? (**V9**)
8. a) List Manoah's questions and the Angel's answers throughout **V8-10**.
- b) What strikes you as interesting in the dynamics between God and this couple? (**V8-18**)
- c) Does Manoah know who the messenger really is? Give evidence from these verses.
9. a) Describe what happens next in **V19-23**.
- b) Contrast the reactions of Manoah and his wife.
10. Given their reactions in **V20**, tell of a time when "the LORD did an amazing thing" in your life and you fell before Him in worship.
11. a) Read how the Angel of the Lord's words were fulfilled in **V24-25**. How might this have encouraged Manoah and his wife?
- b) When have you seen a promise from Scripture fulfilled in your own life, especially from a barren or impossible situation?

SECTION III: Read Judges 14:1-4

12. a) What character traits are unfolding in Samson in **V1-3**?

12. b) How do Samson's parents react to his request for a Philistine wife?
13. **V4** gives the reader parenthetical information that Samson's parents were not privy to. Share your thoughts about this mysterious verse.
14. a) Skim **Chapters 14** through **16** to see how the plot thickens in Samson's life. Put in your words what his mom must have felt in light of the original promise (see **13:5**).
- b) In your life, who seems to be walking away from God's purposes, and has this caused you to wrestle with God?
15. a) What positive character traits did you observe in Manoah's wife?
- b) Which traits will you pray for in your own life?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. a) Compare Manoah's and his wife's progression of faith with that of the blind man in **John 9**.
- b) Manoah seemed to struggle a little more and take a little longer than his wife in his faith journey. What did you notice about her interactions with him, and how does their story encourage you?
2. Samson's mother remains unnamed and yet she is used by God to birth a deliverer for Israel. Comment on how God profoundly used another unnamed female in a powerful way in **2 Kings 5:1-19**.
3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Proverbs 22:6**

