

## WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

# DELILAH

**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.*

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### Lesson 12 • January 16, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Manoah's Wife** has been helpful to you?

#### SECTION I: Read Judges 16:1-14

2. From **V1-4**, together with what you know from **Chapters 13-15**, list some of Samson's character traits and background information.
3. In **V4-5**, with whom does Samson become involved? What is asked of her, and what motivates her to do it?
4. Reading **V6-7**, what does Delilah ask, and how does Samson reply?
5. What are some possible reasons Samson doesn't share the secret of his strength?
6. In your own words summarize what transpires in **V8-9**?
7. How do you think a man of such great physical strength was able to be tied up by Delilah?
8. In **V10-11**, what is Delilah's response to Samson's lie, and what is his reply?

9. a) In **V12-14**, who is deceiving and who is being deceived?
- b) What situation in your life seems hopeless because of ongoing deception and manipulation?

10. a) What character traits are coming out in Delilah thus far?
- b) What are some of the means women employ today to manipulate men?

**SECTION II: Read Judges 16:15-31**

11. In her desperation, what does Delilah ask Samson in **V15**?
12. With three failed attempts at uncovering Samson's secret, to what does Delilah resort in **V16**?
13. a) In your opinion, why does a person resort to nagging?
- b) In what situation would someone say you have a tendency toward nagging?
14. a) What are some positive alternatives to replace the negative climate of nagging?
- b) Read the parable in **Luke 18:1-8**. What positive spin does Jesus suggest on what might be perceived as nagging?
15. In **V17-19**, what does Delilah do with Samson's secret?

16. In **V20-21**, what transpires for Samson?

17. If you have seen or experienced betrayal, tell what the effects are on those involved?

18. What truth(s) comes to mind when you read the rest of the story in **V22-31**? (See also **Hebrews 11:32-34**.)

19. a) Delilah's life demonstrates more of "the bad and the ugly" than "the good". What hope does it bring you that God can sovereignly turn your Delilah chapters into redemptive endings?

b) Write a prayer based on this hope.

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### DIGGING DEEPER

1. Delilah is motivated by money and uses sex, lies, and nagging to earn a monetary reward. See what the Bible says about the following:

Lover of money: **1 Timothy 6:10-11**

Adulterous relationships: **Proverbs 5:1-11**

Liars: **Proverbs 19:5**

Nagging/quarrelsome: **Proverbs 27:15-16**

2. Delilah's betrayal of Samson led to a prison sentence and his death, BUT GOD ultimately accomplished a fierce blow to the enemy. Tell of God's restorative work in your life, or someone you know, after a betrayal.

3. Suggested Memory Verse: **Genesis 50:20**

