

No Regrets: Failing Forward (Bible Study)

[This bible study coincides with the Sunday message from 04/17/16 posted [here](#).]

CHAPTER: [Judges 16](#)

Read 3 times (check when done)

1) TITLE: “Failing Forward”

2) CONTENTS: This chapter contains two sections.

- a) Verses 1 – 22: Samson and Delilah
- b) Verses 23 – 31: Death of Samson

3) CHIEF PEOPLE:

- a) Samson (For details on the birth of Samson, click [here](#))
- b) Delilah (For the verses related to Delilah, click [here](#))
- c) Philistines (For background on the Philistines, click [here](#) or [here](#))

4) CHOICE VERSES:

- a) [Judges 16:1-5](#)
- b) [Judges 16:15-16](#)
- c) [Judges 16:19-26](#)
- d) [Judges 16:28-30](#)

Additional Verses:

- [1 Corinthians 10:12](#)
- [Proverbs 24:16](#)
- [Romans 6:4](#)
- [Isaiah 61:1-3](#)

5) CHALLENGES:

- a) We can see that it was a series of decisions that led to Samson’s troubles (it didn’t just happen). List the specific decisions from Judges 16 that led to Samson being captured.
- b) Sometimes we ignore the warning signs of trouble. What were the warning signs that Samson ignored when dealing with Delilah?
- c) Sometimes we tell dumb lies in the middle of making bad decisions. What lies did Samson tell Delilah?
- d) What can we learn from [Judges 16:22](#) about God’s grace and compassion for us?

6) CENTRAL LESSONS:

- Insights:
 - Samson didn't ruin his life at once. He ruined it one step at a time.
 - Samson consistently went back to the same sin (or his preferred sin).
 - Failure is an event, never a person.
 - You can't undo the sin, but you can repent (turn from your sin and run to God) today.
 - Don't wallow in your mistakes. Recognize your mistake, repent, and get up.
- There's no such thing as sinning a little. Sometimes we can be tempted to think that it's ok to get close to sin or that it's ok to indulge in sin a little (thinking there will be no consequence). As an example, imagine that you have 8 ounces of filtered water in a clear glass. What will happen if you add just one small drop of food coloring to the water? It will change the color of the entire glass of water. That's what happens with sin – even a small amount is still damaging to your life.
 - Be careful! “Just a little yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise.”
Galatians 5:9 (NCV)

7) CONCLUSION: (Personal Application)

- What did you learn from the story of Samson and how can you apply it to your life?
- If there is an area where you have repeatedly made mistakes, what is the typical sequence of steps that leads to that mistake?
- Similar to Samson receiving warning signs as a result of Delilah's actions, have you ever had warning signs in your life (that trouble was just ahead), but you ignored them? What were those signs?
- Sin is sin. You can't rationalize it or justify it. Have you ever tried to rationalize sin? What did you try to rationalize?
- God doesn't consider you a failure (and neither should you). You can move forward from your past. Repent, ask God for forgiveness, then know from that point that you are truly forgiven.
- Repent means to turn from your sin and run to God. You are making a conscious decision to “shift gears” and go in the opposite direction. Do you have areas in your life where you need to repent? What are those areas?
- Even though you may fall, the idea is to keep getting up. What does [Proverbs 24:16](#) mean to you?