

Life Group Notes
Sunday 4th March 2012

Title: Paint Jesus and Trust God

Passage: Judges 13:1-14

Through the story of Samson's birth, we learn something about parenting. With the echoes of Jesus' birth represented we see some elements of Godly choices being made by these people who are looking forward to their miraculous birth.

Every child starts with a blank canvas in the beginning and the principal people who paint onto that canvas during the early years are the parents and those adults close to the child. The question arises, therefore, what will we paint on the children around us or entrusted to us as sons and daughters?

Samson's parents were given a son miraculously, who had a call on his life. He was to be set apart for God for the whole of his life so that he would start the deliverance of God's people from the Philistines. When the angel of the Lord is asked how they should bring up the child the reply is only as to how the mother should conduct herself!

Samson's parents bring him up as they are instructed by God, and in doing so they paint Christ on their boy. They endeavour to instil God's values and His stipulations in him, by living a life that is set apart and by training him in the way he should go. Of course we see that as Samson grows up he goes his own way and makes his own decisions, but when his final moments come, we see him doing what God had called him to do, and displaying those values that he had had instilled in him – doing it God's way.

Now not all children have Samson's call, but all children do have a call and that is to come to Christ and bear His image. Therefore, our duty is to paint Christ in every season as best we can. Samson's parents nurtured his calling and faith, and we must do the same.

When we choose to paint Christ on our children and those around us, it takes the pressure off of us because we are not trying to make clones of ourselves, but disciple great men and women for God. Eventually it comes to that point where other influences paint on a child's canvas including themselves, more than a parent and that is when we then must choose to trust God; that he knows their days and he knows them.

Suggested questions:

- 1) In what ways can we paint Christ on the canvas of our children or the children that are around us?
- 2) What does that mean for you, and what could you do differently?
- 3) Samson's parents lived a life set apart for God. In what ways would your children or the people around you know that you are set apart for God in the way you live your life?