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Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of October 9, 2017

Speaker: Linn Winters. *"Nobody's that Stupid"*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. What hobby or activity would you spend time doing if time and money weren't an issue?
2. What's the furthest you've ever been from home? What took you there?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. **Samson:** *Pastor Linn reminded us that Samson, one of the 12 judges or leaders of Israel, had ONE thing he kept from God.*

Read Judges 13:1. What was the community of God's people like when Samson was born according to this verse?

Read Judges 13:5. What role or purpose was Samson born to fulfill?

Read Judges 16:1. Where do we find Samson in this verse? Gaza is in Philistine territory. What questions now come to mind for you in light of the previous verses we read?

Read Judges 16:4. Who does Samson fall in love with next and where is she from?

*Pay attention to how Samson's indulgence in his "ONE thing" impacts and corrodes his purpose.

2. **Think About It:** Have you ever had a time in your life where you thought you could be around a tempting situation, person, or craving without giving into it?

"Chances are your greatest regret can be traced back to a decision where your body wanted something that your heart knew was wrong. An appetite was raging. You saw something or someone you wanted . . . even though he, she, or it wasn't healthy for you. But you gave in to your body anyway."

What is life often like on the other side of giving into a craving?

3. **Read Judges 16:5.** What did the Philistine rulers ask Delilah to do?

What is the purpose of a fishing lure?

How do "ONE things" hide in the camouflage of a good-thing, or a harmless-habit like a lure?

Think About It: What is your ONE thing? The thing that is so difficult for you to leave behind as you follow Jesus. How has it impacted your life this year? How might you ask the group to pray for you and support you this week?

4. **Now What?**

Read 1 John 4:15. What does this verse say?

Read 1 John 1:9. What two actions does Jesus promise to do?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:14.

Remember it was God's power that raised Jesus from the dead. Jesus conquered all of the things that so easily entrap and enslave us. Like a cancer that creeps through the body and erodes away health, sin has a similar impact in our lives. Our "ONE thing" often causes death to our joy, our purpose, our health, our relationships. Jesus in his kindness can help you walk in the life of His way, rather than is the death of your "ONE thing." This verse reminds us that Jesus is able to help us as we call out and surrender to Him.

Prayer Requests:

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