

Home Group study: week beginning 22nd November 2020

Sex, Lies and God's Videotape

Name a book, play or film where the lines between good and evil have become somewhat blurred; for example, a superhero with dodgy characteristics or a good character that has suddenly done something thoroughly questionable. Why is this closer to real life than the classic 'good vs evil' paradigm?

(Not to be taken too seriously!) What are some of your better features and what are some of your less-worthy characteristics?

Read Judges 16: 1-31

Discovery

What do we learn about Samson and his character flaws from this passage?

What obviously motivated Delilah to betray Samson and what other motivations may there have been lurking in the background?

What do we learn about the nature of sin from this chapter?

The physical often reflects the spiritual. In what ways did sin bind and blind Samson?

In what ways does it bind and blind today?

As mentioned in the sermon, verse 20, 'and Samson did not know that God had left him', is possibly one of the most tragic verses in the bible. Does God leave us when we sin?

If so why, and what should we do about it?

Understanding

'Sex is a gift from God and should be enjoyed within the covenant of marriage'.

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

How is sex viewed by the norms of society today? In what ways are these views transmitted through the media?

A statement was made in the sermon that 'porn leads to a chasing of extra-marital affairs'.

This assertion is in fact quite hotly contested by psychologists. What are the arguments for and against?

Apparently, the term 'quarantini' is entering the English language. It refers to a cocktail of drinks dredged from the back of the cupboard and is a nice play on the word 'Martini'. Why is alcohol a very real threat during these COVID times? How can we keep our consumption in check?

What other aspects of addictive behaviour might you need to keep an eye on during lockdown that in themselves are quite reasonable but could take over your life?

Examples might include online games, online shopping or ridiculous levels of social media time. How might you need to self-regulate?

For reflection

Samson made a thorough mess of things and yet God still reached out to him at the end.

Does that surprise you & cause you to reshape your view of God?

How good are you and I at reaching out to those who, in our minds, have 'messed up'?