



The NIV version of the Bible is used for these questions.

1. Read Exodus 34:10-16. What did God say would happen if the Israelites inter-married with the people who lived in the land of Canaan when God took them there? Read Judges 14:1-3. Was Samson disobeying what God had told them in Exodus? What was the result of his marriage (read the rest of chapter 14). Did it end well? Now read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. Does God give us similar commands? What principle for our lives can we take from these passages?
2. Read Judges 16:1. We saw in chapter 14 that Samson's first step of compromise was to marry a Philistine woman. What was the second step? Have you ever observed the destruction of a person's life over time as they made one small bad decision that led to other bad decisions? Can you give an example? What should we learn from them?
3. Pastor Rick clearly stated that no one plans to fail at anything in life. The fact that they do should teach us what? Read Deuteronomy 4:9 and 12:28. What advice do these verses give us? What does it say will happen if you are careful in how you live?
4. Read James 1:21. What does this verse say you must do to break the bad habits we all have? What do you think it means to "humbly accept the word"? Read Romans 12:1. What must happen for us to be transformed? Do you think it is possible to have habitual ways of thinking, good or bad? Do you think that what James 1:21 and Romans 12:1 say are connected? How?
5. Pastor Rick said that there are five common things that can be cues that cause people to fall back into sinful habits, what were they? What are cues that you have experienced that pull you in the wrong direction? What did he say is the most powerful cue for most people? What do 1 Corinthians 15:33 and Proverbs 13:20 tell us? What difficult decision does this mean that some Christians will need to make if they are serious about developing good habits and shedding bad habits?

ANSWERS

1. What principle for our lives can we take from these passages? *He told them that if they made treaties with them and married into their families, that those people would influence them to worship their false Gods and they would abandon the Lord. Yes, Samson was doing exactly what God had told them not to do. It did not end well for Samson, his new wife betrayed him. God tells us that we should not have close fellowship with unbelievers because there can not be harmony. Most of the time, the believer is influenced to compromise their beliefs in order to accommodate the unbeliever. We need to be extremely careful of who we allow to be an influence on us in our lives if we plan to serve God.*
2. *The second step of compromise is that Samson had sex with prostitutes. As we see people making poor decisions and the consequences they suffer in their lives because of those poor decisions, if we are wise we will avoid those poor decisions ourselves.*
3. *People do not plan to fail, but they also do not plan to succeed, which is why they do not many times. We must put a plan to succeed spiritually into our lives and follow it "religiously" (pun intended). The verses in Deuteronomy tell us that we must be extremely careful what we do and watch our lives closely to make sure we do not allow anything into our lives that would divert us away from serving God. You cannot approach your life flippantly and just assume you will be successful, especially from a spiritual perspective. That is a recipe for failure. If you are careful to obey everything God tells you, it says it will be well with not only you, but your children also.*
4. *James 1:21 says that in order to remove all moral filth from your life, you must humbly accept the word of God which can save you from the sinful habits you have. To humbly accept the word means to submit your will to God's will, to acknowledge that what God says is true and what you think is usually untrue, especially when it contradicts what God says in his word. If you are unwilling to humble yourself this way, you will never change. Romans 12:1 says that our thinking must be transformed for our lives to be transformed. These two verses are connected because if you are unwilling to submit to God's will and proudly insist that your own will is what you will live by, that is a habit of bad thinking that needs to be transformed and until it is, you will constantly make bad decisions. If we do not develop the habit of thinking correctly, we cannot stop the habit of behaving incorrectly.*
5. *The five common cues are: a. places that we go; b. vulnerable times when alone; c. when we are in a volatile mood; d. when we are in the wrong place at the wrong time; and e. people we hang out with. He said that the most powerful cue that pulls us in sinful directions are the people that we spend time with. The passages in 1 Corinthians 15 and Proverbs 13 tell us that if we hang out with bad people, it influences us in a bad way and if we hang out with wise people it influences us in a good way. This means that some Christians need to make the difficult decision to sever close ties with friends who influence them to do the wrong things.*