

## 47. Peer Pressure

### Core Verse

Judges 16v16-17a. And it came to pass, when she pestered him daily with her words and pressed him, so that his soul was vexed to death, that he told her all.

### Background

An angel had visited a man named Manoah and his wife and told them they were going to have a son, Samson. When he grew up Samson would free the Israelites from the Philistines who had treated them like slaves. The Philistines were evil people who opposed God.

Samson was extremely strong and killed any Philistines that treated him badly.

### More Info

Samson got friendly with a woman called Delilah. However Delilah was really a secret agent working for the Philistines. Delilah looked forward to spending the money she'd get if she could figure out what made Samson so invincible. So she convinced Samson that she loved him. Then she annoyed him so much that he gave in and told her that God only gave him strength if he obeyed God's rules and didn't cut his hair.

Delilah, being the great secret agent that she was, got Samson to sleep one night and then chopped off his hair. Samson had disobeyed God so his strength left him and the Philistines dragged him away kicking and screaming. They tortured him by pulling out his eyes and threw him in jail.

## Get into life - for Teens

After some time Samson realized that he had sinned against God and asked for forgiveness. He was given the opportunity to do one last act and, with God's help, he wiped out most of the Philistine government and military officials.

### What's this got to do with me?

Sometimes the people around you can have an adverse influence over your actions. You can end up doing something that you regret. They can pressure you into doing something that you know is wrong but you don't want to lose their friendship. It's at this point the alarm bells should be going off. If they were *good* friends then they wouldn't be trying to get you to do something that was wrong.

And don't underestimate Satan. He can use your friends to get you to do something that you normally wouldn't be tempted to do.

### Dig deeper

Samson – Judges 13v1-16v31

Peter under pressure – John 18v15-18, 25-27