

groups.

— Notes | June 7th, 2026

Second Chances | What Do We Do With Them?

We have a complicated relationship with second chances. We're grateful for them, but if we're honest, we don't always know what to do with them. Sometimes, we go right back to what we know. We return to the same patterns and the same appetites that got us in trouble in the first place... just with a little more guilt attached. God is not stingy with grace. He is, by nature, a giver. But His generosity was never meant to make us comfortable in our foolishness. His generosity of grace and mercy was meant to fuel a different kind of life.

As we look at the story of Samson we see he is one of the most gifted, most called, most blessed people in all of Scripture. His story is equally sobering. Because his life makes plain what ours often obscure: God's willingness to bless you and what you reap are two very different things.

Key Scripture | Galatians 6:7-9

⁷ Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.⁸ Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. ⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Related Scriptures

Deuteronomy 12:8; Proverbs 14:12; Judges 17:6; Judges 13:3-5; Judges 13:24; Galatians 5:16-17 & 19-20; James 1:17; Romans 8:32; Psalm 84:11; Galatians 5:22-25

Icebreakers:

Q: What's a decision you made that you were absolutely convinced was smart at the time and how long did it take you to realize it wasn't?

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Key Thoughts and Reflections: _____

I. God is the God of Second Chances

Q: In your own life, where have you most clearly experienced the difference between God's mercy (not getting what you deserved) and God's grace (receiving what you never earned)? How did that shape you?

Q: Have you ever struggled to believe God would give you another chance after a failure? Is there something that helped you trust His grace again?

Q: Samson experienced God's mercy over and over again. Why do you think repeated grace can sometimes make us less aware of the danger of our decisions?

II. Sowing Smart vs. Sowing Stupid

Q: Kevin said, "God's willingness to bless Samson's life did not determine what he reaped. What Samson sowed is what he reaped." What stands out to you about that statement?

Q: Where do you see our culture calling something "wise" or "good" that God would call foolish? What does it look like to anchor yourself to God's truth rather than the cultures?

Q: Kevin said, "Your appetites will lie to you." Where in your life right now is an appetite — for comfort, approval, pleasure, control — telling you something is smarter than it actually is?

III. The Power to Choose What You Sow

Q: Galatians teaches that we don't have to live according to our flesh because we have the Holy Spirit. How does knowing you have God's power change the way you approach temptation?

Q: God's blessing was not just for Samson personally; it was meant to flow through him to rescue all of Israel. Where in your life might you be treating God's blessing as something meant only for *you*, rather than something meant to flow *through* you?

Q: If you intentionally "sowed smart" this week, what is one specific action, decision, or habit you could begin today?

Get Practical _____

God's grace is not just a chance to avoid consequences; it's an invitation to become someone different. This week, take an honest inventory of the seeds you're planting in your life. Where are you consistently sowing towards sowing smart, and where are you sowing toward foolishness? Ask God to reveal any area where you've mistaken His patience for permission or His grace for approval. Then choose one specific habit, decision, or conversation that would represent "sowing smart" this week. Write it down and share it with someone you trust. Invite them to pray for you, encourage you, and help you stay faithful to the coming harvest.