

## Elephant in the Living Room: Manipulation

**Text: Judges 16:1-19**

**Purpose:** Looking at the story of Samson we're going to see the pathway of manipulation and the protection from manipulation for our lives.

**Opening Question:** *Where do you find yourself striving to get your own way?*

**Read and Discuss: Judges 16:1-19**

1. *Why do the rulers of the Philistine's go to Delilah to get to the secret of Samson's strength?*
2. *How can you tell when someone is being deceitful?*
3. *How does Samson lead Delilah astray? What is Delilah's reaction to Samson when she realizes he was lying to her about his weakness?*
4. *Where do you see people playing the "victim" card? What does it look like?*
5. *Why do you think people manipulate others? What are some motives for manipulators?*
6. *How can trusting God release people from the need to deceive others?*
7. *Why did Samson keep responding to Delilah's manipulation? What was in it for him?*
8. *What can we do to protect ourselves from the temptation to manipulate others?*