

THE SAMSON SOCIETY



MEETING BOOK

Everything you need to host a Samson Society meeting



HOST: My name is _____. Let's open this meeting with prayer, followed by a reading of the 23rd Psalm.
[Asks someone to pray, another to read Psalm 23]

PSALM 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me. Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

HOST: Welcome to this meeting of the Samson Society. We are a company of Christian men. We are also:

- **Natural Loners** who have recognized the dangers of isolation and are determined to escape them,
- **Natural Wanderers** who are finding spiritual peace and prosperity at home,
- **Natural Liars** who are now finding freedom in the truth,
- **Natural Judges** who are learning how to judge ourselves aright,
- **Natural Strongmen** who are experiencing God's strength as we admit our weaknesses.

As Christians, we meet at other times for worship, for teaching, or for corporate prayer. Today, however, we meet to talk. Our purpose is to assist one another in our common journey. We do so by sharing honestly, out of our own personal experiences, the challenges and encouragements of daily Christian living in a fallen world. Our faith rests in the love of God, as it is revealed in His Word and in the life of His Son. This is the **Great Fact** of the Gospel, which is the foundation of our Charter. [Asks someone to read The Fact]

THE FACT

1. God exists. In the timeless mystery of the Trinity, He is perfectly harmonious, perfectly whole.
2. God is our Creator. He designed us to live in eternal harmony with Him and each other, and to care for the rest of His creation.
3. Spurning God's fellowship, we all have sinned, forfeiting our created place and losing our spiritual lives.
4. I myself have personally defied God's law and rejected His love. Alienation from Him has produced darkness and chaos in my life, for which I have often blamed others.
5. God has continued to love me, even in my active rebellion, and in Christ has done everything necessary to restore me perfectly to Himself.
6. As I accept responsibility for my sin and find forgiveness in the finished work of Christ, I experience reconciliation with God and am progressively restored to harmony with myself and others.
7. Despite the lingering effects of sin, I am a restored son of the sovereign Lord, whose Spirit is at work in my weakness, displaying His glory and advancing His kingdom.

HOST: Let's take a moment to introduce ourselves. I'll begin and we'll go around the room. Those who wish may give a one-sentence statement of their reason for attending this meeting. [Introductions follow]

HOST: We in the Samson Society have been set upon a **Path**, a way of living that leads to godliness and freedom. Here is the description of that Path that is given in our Charter. [Asks someone to read The Path]

THE PATH

1. Believing The Fact, I surrender to God in simple faith—making no promises, but merely asking for His aid.
2. I start attending meetings of the Society, and from its members I select a Silas, a trustworthy traveling companion for this stretch of the road.
3. In honest detail, I describe to God and to my Silas the course and consequences of my attempts to live apart from God.
4. Encouraged by my Silas and others, I develop the daily disciplines of prayer, study, and self-examination. I abandon self-help, asking God instead to do for me what I cannot do for myself.
5. I choose to trust the Body of Christ, weighing the wisdom of my friends when facing decisions and seeking their strength when confronted by temptation.
6. When I can do so without injuring anyone, I make amends for damage I have caused. If direct amends are impossible or inadvisable, I demonstrate my repentance in other ways.
7. I offer myself as a Silas to others. Each day I ask God for the grace to seek His kingdom rather than my own, to serve those He places in my path rather than serving myself.



HOST: We have now reached the sharing portion of our meeting. In sharing, we speak honestly out of our own experience. We tell the truth about ourselves, knowing that our brothers will listen to us in love and will hold whatever we say in **strictest confidence**. We try to keep our comments brief, taking care to leave plenty of time for others. We address our statements to the group as a whole rather than directing them toward any one person. As a rule, we refrain from giving advice to others or instructing them during the meeting, believing that such conversations are best reserved for private moments between friends. The suggested topic today is _____. (choose one from the list), but we are not confined to that subject. You may speak about any issue that is currently commanding your attention. (If the group is large, divide into smaller breakout groups for sharing.) The floor is now open for anyone who wishes to speak.

[Five minutes before the scheduled end of the meeting, the Host asks whether there are any final thoughts. When all who wish to speak have spoken, the Host says:]

HOST: The formal part of our meeting is now coming to a close, but you are encouraged to stay around afterward to talk, or to adjourn elsewhere for more informal fellowship. Are there any announcements related to this meeting? Any announcements of other Samson Society meetings?

HOST: As valuable as they are, these meetings are no substitute for daily Christian friendship. Just as our Lord's first disciples were sent into the world two-by-two, we too should look for at least one Christian companion, a fellow-traveler and advisor with whom to share this stretch of the road. The helper we select will be flawed and weak, like we are, but will nonetheless be willing to hear our story, protect our confidence, and talk with us briefly every day. We will walk together by mutual consent, gracefully accepting the fact that relationships change over time and that few relationships are permanent. Love, honest, and humility are our watchwords. Before we close, let us reaffirm **the Pact** under which our Society operates. [Asks someone to read The Pact.]

THE PACT

1. God is the sole owner of the Samson Society and its only authority. No member may speak for the entire Society.
2. All members of the Society are equals, friends and fellow servants bound by love and honor. No member may command the obedience of another.
3. The Society owns no property, collects no dues or fees, pays no salaries, incurs no debts.
4. The Society is an extension of the Church Universal. It is not a corporate entity and can make no contracts with congregations, denominations, causes or campaigns, regardless of their merit.
5. Any two or more persons who believe the Fact, who agree to follow this Path, and join this Pact, may initiate a meeting of the Samson Society.
6. We hold in strictest confidence any personal information shared by other members, unless permission to divulge it is given by any whom its disclosure might affect.
7. Members are fully authorized to create and distribute, freely or for profit, personal explanations and applications of the Society's principles—if they neither alter nor violate its Charter and do not prohibit others from copying their work.

HOST: Let's stand and close with prayer. [Prays simply for the needs expressed, leads in the Lord's Prayer]

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours
Now and forever. Amen.



TOPIC LIST

Abandoning Self-Help	Enlightenment	Liberty	Sacrifice
Acceptance	Envy	Listening	Sadness
Adulthood	Escape	Living Apart From God	Sanity
Adventure		Longing	Secrets
Advice	Family	Loss	Seeking God's Kingdom
Anger	Fantasy	Love	Self-Care
Argument	Father	Lust	Self-Centeredness
Asking for God's Aid	Fatigue	Lying	Self-Discipline
	Fear		Selfishness
Beauty	Fighting	Making Amends	Self-Sufficiency
Betrayal	Foolishness	Making No Promises	Servanthood
Blame	Forgetfulness	Masculinity	Service
Blindness	Forgiveness	Medication	Sex
Bravery	Freedom	Meditation	Shame
	Friendship	Memory	Simple Faith
Certainty	Fulfillment	Mission	Solitude
Chaos		Mistakes	Spirit
Clarity	Gambling	Mother	Stealing
Communication	Generosity		Stewardship
Comparison	Gentleness	Nature	Strength
Competition	Goals	Neediness	Surrender
Compromise	Goodness		
Confession	Grace	Obedience	Teamwork
Confidentiality	Gratitude		Temptation
Confrontation	Greed	Patience	Tenderness
Confusion	Grief	Peace	The Wisdom of Friends
Consequences		Perfection	Tolerance
Contentment	Happiness	Persistence	Toughness
Control	Hatred	Power	Transparency
Counsel	Healing	Powerlessness	Trust
Courage	Heroes	Prayer	Trusting the Body of Christ
Creativity	Holiness	Pride	Trustworthy Companions
Criticism	Honesty	Progress	Truth
	Hope	Promises	
Daily Disciplines	Humility		Unbelief
Deceit	Hunger	Quietness	Understanding
Decision Making		Quitting	
Defeat	Identity		Weakness
Defensiveness	Injuries	Rage	Willingness
Demonstrating Repentance	Insanity	Reconciliation	Wisdom
Denial	Integrity	Recreation	Women
Destructiveness	Intimacy	Regret	Worry
Determination	Intoxication	Resentment	Worship
Disappointment	Isolation	Respect	Wounds
Disclosure		Responsibility	
Dishonesty	Joy	Rest	
Distraction		Revelation	
	Kindness	Righteousness	
Education	Knowledge	Risk	
Encouragement	Laughter	Romance	
Enemies	Learning		

