

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 21, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 7:2-17

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 7:3

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 7:2.** Twenty years have lapsed since the Ark went to Kiriath-Jearim. Reading ahead a little into verse three, what had the Israelites been worshipping all of this time? Why would the Israelites be lamenting after the Lord after all these years (Psalm 115:4-8, 146:3-4; Isaiah 55:2; Jeremiah 2:13)?

(b) How is being in relationship with God described in these verses (Psalm 63:1-5; Isaiah 58:11)? Do you see your relationship with God like this?

(c) When you think of “following after God” do words like satisfying, sweet, refreshing come to your mind? Why/why not?

(d) Has your relationship with the Lord been more duty than delight? Have you ever had a time when the words in (c) described your relationship with God? Describe it. What keeps you from having that every day?

(e) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 7:2 and Psalm 63:1-5. How does David describe the love he has for the Lord? What are the Israelites doing in 1 Samuel 7:2? According to David, why is God so worthy of worship? Do you see your relationship with God like this? Pray that God would show you the delights of following after Him.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 7:3-4.** In verse 3, we learn why the Israelites are not in relationship with the Lord. The Israelites though, seem ready to turn toward the Lord. What are Samuel’s requirements for turning to the Lord? Why is this so important (Matthew 6:24)?

(b) Is there or has there been something in your life that is/was like an idol that you were not willing to give up? How does/did that affect your relationship with the Lord?

(c) Read 2 Corinthians 7:9-11. How does Paul distinguish godly grief from worldly grief? The next time you feel grieved over your sin ask yourself, “To what extent am I willing and eager to be free of this sin?” How eager were the Israelites? How eager are you right now to be in right relationship with the Lord?

(d) *Family:* 1 Samuel 7:3-4. This passage talks about what Israel had to do to show that they truly were repentant and turning to God. What is it that they were going to have to do? Were they going to be able to do this half way? Pray that God would show you if there is anything keeping you from worshipping the Lord with all your heart.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 7:5-11.** What do the Israelites do once they have gathered at Mizpah? How do they show their contrition to the Lord? Have you ever fasted? Can you fast from other things besides food? Why is fasting sometimes the proper thing to do when struggling with a particular sin?

(b) The Israelites merely gathered to repent of their sin, but now the Philistines are coming to attack. How is their reaction now different from their reaction in chapter 4? How does this show genuine repentance? What can we learn about the nature of genuine repentance from this?

(c) How is God faithful to honor the prayers and sacrifices of His people? How does God make sure that His people know that it was He who saved them?

(d) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 7:5-11. What does it mean to fast? Can you fast from other things besides food and water? Why would it be a good thing to fast from food or other things from time to time? Does your family need to fast from anything?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 7:12.** What is so significant about setting up a memorial to remember an event? How do we do this today as a country? How do we do this today as families, friends?

(b) The word “Ebenezer” means “stone of help.” (Genesis 49:24). What characteristic of God’s help is emphasized in describing God as a “stone of help”? How has God shown Himself as a “stone of help” in your life? When has there been a time when He has been your help in time of need? Read through these Psalms and thank God for being a help to all these people and to you (Psalm 10:14; 40:17; 63:7).

(c) What kind of markers do you have for your relationship with the Lord? Why is it helpful for us to remember these things? What is a practical way for you and your family to do this?

(d) *Family*: Read 1 Samuel 7:12. Talk through (c) together and come up with some times that you as a family, have seen God provide. What is something that you can do to memorialize that event? Take time to remember that event as a family and give everyone a chance to say what they learned from God providing.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 7:13-17.** The Israelites regained much of the land that the Philistines had taken over. As a result of the Philistines being subdued, the Israelites were the dominant nation and thus experienced peace from even the Amorites. How does this go beyond showing just God’s faithfulness to free Israel?

(b) What is Samuel serving as for most of his life? What roles does he play for the nation of Israel (1 Samuel 3:20, 7:10, 15)? Who else played exactly the same roles (Hint: famous person from Exodus)? What did this counterpart do for and give to the Nation of Israel? How is Samuel similar in this?

(c) What can we learn from Samuel’s ministry as it is described in verses 16 and 17? Does he expect people to come to him? Does he forsake his family for his work? How is his life a model for us?

(d) *Family*: Read 1 Samuel 7:13-17. Review (c) together and talk about how he ministers to people. How does his life reflect the life Christians are to lead? Pray that you might live a life of faithfulness to God and family like Samuel.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. What has God taught you this week? What is that one thing that is hard for you to give over completely to God? How could you cut it off from your life if only for a time? Have you ever fasted? What was it like if you have? What is one thing that you can share with another person this week? Do that. Encourage someone else with what God has been teaching you.

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Practicing and Savoring True Repentance

“put away the foreign gods...and serve only Him”