

SAMUEL

Set FREE from Idolatry

1 Samuel 7:1-14

Icebreaker

Have you seen God at work around you or someone you know that appears he is preparing you or that person for something “new” or “different” in the near future?

Context

Chapter 6 ended with the Levitical city of Beth-shemesh wanting to send the ark away from them (but note that they say they are sending him away from them) because of the judgment that has fallen upon them for their mishandling of God's ark. While the ark makes it back to Israel, the people are still spiritually unhealthy. This week, Samuel steps back into the spotlight to help lead the people back to the Lord and free the people from Philistine oppression.

Discuss

1. **Based upon verse 1, what did the people of Kiriath-jearim do that made it possible for the ark to remain in the area?**

Consecrate: the setting apart of people, things, times, or places as sacred for God to use.

Based on the definition above, what do we learn about the spiritual condition of Eleazar, the household of Abinadab, and some of the people of Kiriath-jearim?

2. **Why did 20 years pass from when the ark went to Kiriath-jearim until Samuel called Israel to repentance? What are some possible reasons that God delays taking an action?**
3. Verse 2 says, “From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the Lord.” The word translated “lamented” carries the idea of “mourning”, “sorrow”, or “bereavement” after (or for) the Lord. **What does it mean to “lament” or “mourn” after the Lord? Describe a time where you “lamented after” the Lord.**



Everyday
DISCIPLESHIP

4. **List the six things Samuel says that are part of the process of salvation for the people of Israel:**
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Could the people skip any of these and still return to a right relationship with God?

5. **What are the essentials of the Gospel that we should be sharing with people today? [See Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:19; Mark 1:15; John 3:16; Romans 6:23]**
6. Read verses 4-6. **What is the difference between the people putting away their idols in verse 4 and the people confessing their sins in verse 6? Why do American Christians (generally speaking) have difficulty with corporate confessions of sin?**
7. Read Numbers 21:4-9. The only other place that Israel asked a leader to pray for them is this passage and in Numbers. **Why were the people desperate for Moses to pray for them in the Numbers passage? Why were the people desperate for Samuel to pray for them? Read Romans 8:27 & Romans 8:34. What is the significance that the Holy Spirit and Jesus are both interceding on your behalf right now?**
8. **What is the benefit of corporate confession of sin?**
9. **Compare 1 Samuel 7:10 and 1 Samuel 4:5-7. While there is a mighty sound/mighty shout in the two passages, what are the key differences between these two passages?**
10. **Did the Israelites do anything that started the route of the Philistines? Did the Israelites just get to celebrate the victory, or did they have a part to play in securing the result according to verse 11? Can we as Christians just "sit back" and do nothing in the world, or do we have a part to play in furthering the kingdom of God?**
11. **Is there a lesson we should learn from the description of Samuel judging by traveling a circuit in Israel when compared to Eli being found sitting in every scene and eventually being revealed as being very large in his old age?**

