

# 1 SAMUEL

## Renew the Kingdom!

1 Samuel 12

### Icebreaker

Describe a time when you knew you were experiencing a great deal of change. How did it make you feel? Did you appreciate the magnitude of the moment, or were you overwhelmed by all of the things surrounding the situation?

### Context

The end of chapter 12 had Saul and the people of Israel celebrating the Lord's salvation from the hand of the Ammonites and the renewal of the kingdom. Today, we pick up the story with Samuel offering a definitive change in the leadership of Israel. Up to the time of anointing Saul to be the leader, Israel had been led by a string of judges put in place by the Lord for addressing a specific threat. That leadership model is ending with Samuel. Today's passage is Samuel's farewell address as he passes the political leadership to Saul, and Saul assumes the role of king.

### Discuss

1. **Why does Samuel establish the "facts" of what has happened in verses 1 & 2?**
2. Read verses 3-5. Samuel puts himself in the position of defendant and asks Israel to determine Samuel's guilt or innocence before the people. **What is the purpose of Samuel establishing his character before the people of Israel?**
3. Read verses 6-11. Verses 6 & 7 serve as an introduction to the rest of the section. **What are the facts that Samuel is establishing in verses 6 & 7?**
4. According to verse 9, why did Israel find itself in trouble so often? Read Deuteronomy 5:15; 7:18; 15:15; 16:3; 16:12; 24:18; and 24:22. **Why does God repeat this command/warning so often to the people of Israel?**

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. **What is the purpose of the Lord's Supper for the church and believers?**

**Tell us one thing you remember that God has done for you personally that helps you stay faithful in your walk with Jesus.**



5. Read Deuteronomy 24:18. The key theme in this verse is God bought Israel out of slavery to be his own people. Look at verses 8-11. **How is that theme repeated in the 1 Samuel passage?**
6. Note the pattern Israel experienced according to Samuel (and the book of Judges):
  - Israel forgets the Lord and sins against him
  - People are oppressed by (or sold into the hand of) an enemy
  - The people cry out to God
  - God redeems Israel out of the hand of the enemy

**What change happens in the pattern for Israel in verse 12? Since the cry of the people changed because of Nahash, do you think ultimately there will be a change in the result?** (Verse 13 and 1 Samuel 11:11 are the immediate result, but go back and look at 1 Samuel 8:18 to find out how this ultimately ends.)

7. **If you were a juror charged with determining if Israel is acting wisely or foolishly towards God based on verses 6-12, what would your verdict be and why?**
8. Before asking the next question, it is important to note that verse 14 has two parts of an if/then statement. Part 1 is the things the people Israel must do, while part 2 is what Israel AND the king must do. If both parts of the if statement are true, then the result will be that things go well.

**What are the things that Israel must do for the results to be good?**

**What are the things that Israel AND the king must do for the results to be good? What happens if Israel follows the Lord but the king does not follow the Lord, what will be the result? How does this tie back into the warning Samuel gives back in chapter 8 about how choosing to have a king is sin?**

9. Read verses 16-18. **What was the purpose of this miraculous event of thunder and rain before Israel? According to verse 18, did the people "get the message?"**
10. **Do you notice anything "odd" in the peoples' request of Samuel in verse 19?** [Note the personal pronoun in the first phrase] **What does this tell us about the relationship between the people and the Lord?**
11. Verse 19 is a great example of confession of sin before the Lord. Read Psalm 51:1-5. **What are some components of a genuine confession of sin?**
12. Read verses 20-21. **When confronted with our sin, what are some possible ways we could respond to being "found out" for our sin?** [If you want to ask a "real" question, "Describe a season in your life that you were



entangled in sin and could not/would not get out of it, even though people pointed out you were headed the wrong way. What ultimately helped you come back to the Lord?]

13. Notice Samuel's response to their confession, "You have done all this evil." **Why is it important to be honest with people about sin? Do we help people move towards transformation if we downplay the ugliness of sin?**
14. The second half of verse 20 and verse 21 are instructions by Samuel to Israel on how to avoid falling back into sin. **Why is it important to remember that there is someone (the Lord) to whom we are moving towards, but there are also those things that we are avoiding or leaving behind? If you do one and not the other, what will the result be?**
15. Read Psalm 106:8; Ezekiel 20:9, 14, & 22. **Why is it important that God maintains his relationship with his people based on HIS character and not on our character or conduct?**
16. Read Joshua 24:14-15. How are these two verses similar to Samuel's words in 1 Samuel 11:24 & 25? (Here is another "real" question: When faced with a temptation, why do we forget to choose the "good"?)

## Next Steps

The next steps are important this week. You and I should take time to let the Holy Spirit reveal whether or not we have unconfessed sin or not. It takes shutting out the "noise" of the world and allowing God to speak to us though.

Read Psalm 139. Pray and ask God to show you HIS view of your life.

Read Psalm 51. Whatever sin God reveals in your life, the first step is confession and asking God to forgive you. Use this psalm as a guide for confessing your sin.

