

Sept 7/25 - Small Group Questions

1 Samuel 7–8: “Repentance and Dependence”

Read 1 Samuel 7:2–17 and 1 Samuel 8:1–22 together.

1. Idols Then and Now

- In chapter 7, Samuel calls Israel to put away their foreign gods.
- What “foreign gods” or idols do you see most prevalent in our culture today?
- Which ones most easily compete for your own heart’s trust?

2. Repentance at Mizpah

- How do the people express repentance in 7:5–6?
- What role does confession and corporate prayer play in helping us turn from sin today?

3. Dependence vs. Self-Reliance

- When the Philistines attack, Israel doesn’t fight or flee but asks Samuel to pray (7:8).
- Where do you find it easiest to depend on your own wisdom and strength rather than on God?

4. The Ebenezer Stone

- Samuel sets up a stone of remembrance and names it “Ebenezer” (7:12).
- What would it look like for you to “set up an Ebenezer” in your life—some reminder of God’s past help to fuel trust in his future help?

5. “Give Us a King”

- Why do the elders of Israel demand a king in chapter 8?
- In what ways do we sometimes come to God with our own pre-set solutions rather than waiting in dependence?

6. The Two Kings

- Samuel warns of a king who will “take, take, take” (8:11–18). Contrast this with King Jesus, who came to give his life (Mark 10:45).
- How does this shape your trust in Jesus in the midst of your own crises or decisions?

7. Personal Application

- What decision point or crisis are you facing right now?
- How might you practice dependence on God this week rather than self-reliance?