

Background to 1 Samuel 12

After the Israelites demanded for a human king, God gave them what they wanted even though this means being rejected by his people as their true king. So, God sent Samuel to choose a king for the Israelites. Saul, a man from the Benjamin tribe (one of the twelve tribes of Israel) was chosen and confirmed as king by Samuel. Having appointed a king for the Israelites, Samuel stepped down from leadership and gave a farewell speech to the people.

Icebreaker

- a) When you have done something wrong, how do you usually react when someone corrects/criticises you?
- b) How do you feel when the person you hurt then forgives you and even gives you something you don't deserve?

Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

Read 1 Samuel 12

1. At the start of Samuel's speech, what did he asked the Israelites? (v.1-3)
2. Was Samuel guilty of anything? Why did Samuel ask those questions? (v.4-5)
3. How did the Israelites respond to difficulty and hardships in the past? (v.8, 10)
4. How did God respond to the Israelites' cry for help in all their difficult situations? (v.8, 11)
5. How was their reaction now similar to the time after God rescued them? (v.9-10) How was Israel's current response to their difficulty different from the past? (v.8, 10, 12-13)

Testify: Give evidence as a witness (in a law court)

Anointed: Chosen for kingship or priesthood (shown by the pouring/rubbing of oil on the forehead).

Oppressed: to treat someone harshly and unfairly; abuse.

Righteous: morally right or good; honourable and upright.

Moses: Leader of the Israelites who God used to lead them out of Egypt and gave them God's Law.

Aaron: First high priest of Israel

Jacob: The Father of the Israelites

Sin: to reject or disobey God.

Forsaken: to abandon; reject; disown

Deliver: to rescue; set someone free

Awe: to be amazed; to admire; wow!

Persist: To continue doing something

Perish: To die.

6. What were Samuel's warnings for the Israelites? (v.20-25)

What should they do?	What should they NOT do?
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a. What were Samuel's assurance for the Israelites even though they have done evil?

Assurance #1:

Assurance #2:

Assurance #3:

7. When you face difficulties in life, how do you usually respond or where do you first look for help?

a. What does the way you respond or the place you look for help reveal about who/what you rely most on? How do they compare to God?

b. God's anger burns against sin (v.9, 15, 19, 25). How does your sin of idolatry or distrust of God make you feel? When you see this from God's perspective, how do you feel?

c. How do Samuel's warnings challenge you when you face difficulties?

d. **Read Romans 8:33-35.** How does this passage and Samuel's assurance encourage you when you face difficulties?

Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? –Rom 8:33-35

e. Spend some time saying sorry to God and also thank God for his assurances.

Talk Notes

Pattern of the Israelites

Look to God as your greatest and unfailing security

God's power and Israel's evil

God is offering you grace and mercy

Jesus prays for us

God teaches us what is good through the Holy Spirit



BIBLE STUDIES 2018



***Covenant – Accusation and
Assurance***

1 Samuel 12