

## 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 to hurt someone, 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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• This last one is tricky because the "Do not..." is implied. v.25 - do not persist in doing evil</li> </ul>

a. What were Samuel's assurance for the Israelites even though they have done evil?

Assurance #1:

Assurance #2:

Assurance #3:

7. What or who makes you feel most secure or gives you the most comfort?

a. **Read Psalm 118:8-9** and discuss why do you think the Bible says it is better to take refuge (find security) in God than others?

*It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. –Psalm 118:8-9*

b. Do you agree with Psalm 118 – do you think God is more reliable than what you said above that makes you feel most secure? Why or why not?

c. Is this kind of security and comfort that God offers something you want?

8. Why didn't God just give up on those who have forsaken/rejected him?

a. God not only did not give up on those who rejected him, he still offered them warning and assurance. This means that God still accepts them as his people if they choose to trust in him now. This is called grace (giving us what we don't deserve), how do you feel about God's grace? Did your view of God change?

## **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



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***Covenant – Accusation and  
Assurance***

**1 Samuel 12**