

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 6, 2010

Passage: 1 Samuel 12

Memory Passage: 1 Samuel 12:22

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Samuel 12:1-5.** This is Samuel's farewell address to Israel as their political leader. What kind of ruler does he claim to have been? What are some of the claims that he makes?
- (b) How do the Israelites respond? What has happened to his Sons? What had they been accused of earlier (1 Samuel 8:1-3)?
- (c) Samuel is the last Judge of Israel. What had been the Judges main duty (1 Samuel 7:5-6, 10-11)? How is this like the ministry of Christ (Matthew 4:17; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57)?

**For Discussion:** *(Leaders read the passage for the day and summarize what you learned from the previous questions)*

- (d) The Israelites often waited until they were faced with impossible situations before they turned to God. Have you ever done that? Why do you think that it took you so long to turn to God?
- (e) What are some things you can do to keep you from having a hardened heart? How can you cultivate a heart of repentance?
- (f) *Family:* Read 1 Samuel 12:1-5. What kind of man was Samuel? Would you have listened to him? Why is someone's character so important? Should you listen to people who don't have such godly character?

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Samuel 12:6-11.** Having read verses 1-5 and 6-11, what does it seem like Samuel is doing here with the people of Israel? What would be a modern day example of what he is doing?
- (b) What does Samuel say his purpose is in reciting the history of Israel in this way? How does God choose to save the people from their oppression? What does God's intervention result in?

**For Discussion:**

- (c) What pattern is formed between Israel and the Lord in this speech? What parallels are there between Israel here and our own salvation experience?
- (d) When we repent, how are the blessings that God brings similar to Israel's (Colossians 1:13-14)? How is the Christian life a life of repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10)?
- (e) *Family:* 1 Samuel 12:6-11. What had God done for the Israelites? What had the Israelites done to get themselves in such messes? What did they do in response? What is God wanting us to do when we realize our sinfulness? What does it mean to repent?

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read 1 Samuel 12:12-15.** What is the main reason the Israelites were asking for a king? How is their request here different from their previous requests?
- (b) What five conditions does Samuel make for their prosperity? What is going to be their punishment? What does this phrase entail (1 Samuel 5:6, 9; 7:13)?

**For Discussion:**

- (c) What is Israel trying to do in asking for a King instead of repenting? What would happen if God gave us salvation without repentance? Why is repentance so crucial?
- (d) What would it say about God if he blessed His people when they weren't really following after Him? How would the other nations perceive the Lord?
- (e) *Family:* 1 Samuel 12:12-18. What had the Israelites done instead of repenting and turning to God? How offensive must this have been to God? What does God want them to do? How does He emphasize His own power and glory? Have you ever repented of your sins? What does Jesus instruct us to do in Mark 1:15? Repenting and believing in Jesus is what the Christian life is all about.

**DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 12:16-18.** The wheat harvest in Israel happened during May and June which is the dry season for Israel, which means an all out thunderstorm would be highly unusual. What would happen to a ripe wheat crop in a great thunderstorm? What are the people doing while this takes place? How do the people respond?

**For Discussion:**

(b) In what ways would this storm affect the Israelites? How would witnessing such an event affect you? How does God use his creation today to bring about a good fear of Him (Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19)?

(c) Can you name an experience when you have been overcome with a fear of the Lord because of His creation? What was it? How did you respond? How are those times comforting as well as frightening?

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 12:19-25.** The Israelites are not convinced of their sinful act against their God. What are they afraid that God is going to do because of their sin? What had Samuel already told them they needed to do to experience God's blessing?

(b) What reason does Samuel give for God's gracious forgiveness at this moment? Are they deserving to be God's people? On what basis does God choose them to be His people?

**For Discussion:**

(c) How are the Israelites missing the point in verse 19? What is the one thing that the Israelites most recently trusted in to deliver them? What are things that we tend to think will deliver us?

(d) What can we learn from Samuel's faithfulness to pray for Israel? Who does he feel the most accountable to? How should our interactions be shaped by this example? What happens when we begin to worry more about sinning against others than God?

(e) *Family:* 1 Samuel 12:19-25. Why does God want to save His people? Does it have to do with anything they have done? Why is it helpful to have Godly men around you? What is Samuel going to do for the people? Pray that the Lord would send such people into your life to help you follow after the Lord.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT****READ THE PASSAGE**

*Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* This week's passage is about the proper need for repentance. We are all in need of repentance from time to time. Are there any empty things that you have allowed to take your affections and hope? Do you trust in and follow after money, time, comfort, success, contentment, peace...etc. more than God? Take some time today and talk to God about how you are operating. Ask him to show you anything you need to repent of.

**DATE:** June 6, 2010

**PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 12

***A Call to Repentance***  
*“serve the Lord with all your heart”*