

“Remembering God’s Faithfulness”

1 Samuel 7

Do you ever have trouble remembering important events? We don’t all suffer from Alzheimer’s but we’re all prone to experience “sometimers” (i.e. sometimes I don’t remember...) and need audible or visible reminders. In the wake of a great victory over their long time oppressors, Samuel set up a monument called “Ebenezer” (i.e. stone of help), as a way of marking the victory and making sure people remembered how “the Lord has helped us”. Thanksgiving was established as a reminder of how the Lord has helped and provided for us. Today we want to take time to remember God’s faithfulness.

Opening Question(s) – Choose one

- As a child, how do you remember celebrating Thanksgiving?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is a holiday like Thanksgiving? Explain.

Study Questions

- 1) **Read 1 Samuel 7.** How would you describe the spiritual state of Israel prior to the assembly at Mizpah (vv.2-6)?
- 2) How long did the Israelites spend at Mizpah and what did they do there?
- 3) Why did the Philistines attack Israel during their assembly? What happened when they drew near to engage Israel in battle?
- 4) What statement did God make by using thunder (v.10) against Baal, the Philistine storm god and Israel’s idol (v.4)? What role did Israel play in confrontation and victory?
- 5) When have you experienced a severe test of your faith? Was it soon after an act of spiritual commitment? If so, what effect did that trial have on your new resolution?
- 6) Why does Samuel set up a stone monument (v.12)?
- 7) What significant memorials or reminders have you seen? Are they effective?
- 8) What “memorials” have you set up to remind you of when God has greatly helped or blessed you? How can you work to keep track of God’s blessings in the future?