

ICEBREAKER

Time to share something totally unique about yourself. What would you say is your favourite and fun guilty pleasure? Something not harmful but definitely quirky :)

SCRIPTURE READING

Read together as a group: **1 Samuel 7**. Take turns reading a verse at a time.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **The first point of Samuel's Gospel:** *"Returning to the Lord with all your heart."*

Samuel is calling the people to repentance. Repentance is an admission of, hatred of, and turning away from sin before God.

Read: 1 Samuel 7:3-4

The keyword is "ALL" in this verse. If you are wanting to repent and turn back to God, it cannot be a partial move. You must, and you need to, return to the Lord with ALL your heart. Charles Spurgeon said, *"If Christ is not all to you He is nothing to you. He will never go into partnership as a part Saviour of men. If He be something He must be everything, and if He be not everything He is nothing to you."*

Have there been moments in your life where you knew you needed to return to God with all of your heart? What made you want to make this decision?

As Spurgeon states, we cannot call ourselves followers of Christ unless we are actually seeking to follow Christ in every aspect of our lives. What parts of our life can we typically try to follow Jesus half-heartedly when He is asking us to return to Him with ALL our heart?

- **The second point of Samuel's Gospel:** *"You must put away the pagan gods."*

A pagan life is when we make anything "god" in our life other than the God of all creation and of the Holy Bible.

Read: Romans 1:22-27

The people Paul described were worldly and materialistic, worshiping created things rather than the Creator. They worshiped trees, animals, and rocks, going so far as to abuse their bodies in irregular sexual practices.

Read: Romans 1:28

Relate these scriptures to our modern day. In what ways do these scriptures apply to our current society?

- **The third point of Samuel's Gospel:** *"Direct your heart to the Lord and serve Him only."*

The word serve here actually carries the meaning of "worship". They are intermingled. When you worship the Lord you are serving Him. When you serve the Lord, you are worshipping Him.

Read: Luke 9:23

If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow Me.

We tend to think we can get close to the "fire" but eventually we will get burned and that is when we feel regret. Regret accomplishes nothing to restore our relationship with Christ. Repentance is required at this stage for a right relationship to be restored.

Read: Joshua 24:15

Read: 2 Timothy 2:22-23

Do you recognize the things in your life that want to pull you away from serving and worshipping the Lord God only? What are you willing to do about those things and their influence in your life and your relationship with Jesus?

- **The fourth point of Samuel's Gospel:** *"He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines."*

The gospel of Samuel proclaimed a simple wonderful promise - to return to the Lord with your whole heart, which would mean putting away your pagan gods and serve the Lord alone, and He will deliver you.

Read: 1 Samuel 7:5-6

True repentance leads to action but worship is important too. Repentance is not just about turning from sin. That can make it about our attempt to be good enough for God. True repentance is a turning from sin and turning back to God which involves our worshipping Him.

Has God delivered you from "?" but you have yet to completely surrender ALL to Him? If so, are you waiting for something more from God?

PERSONAL REFLECTION & CHALLENGE

You can find all the RESPONSE Series messages online at www.huronchapel.com/response-sg-resources. Reflect on what God has been speaking to you and **what are you doing in RESPONSE? It's time to take action.**

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