

## Community Group Discussion Questions

“The Unknown Stone” 1 Samuel 7:12-13 May 25, 2019

### Getting Started

A rock is rock until a rock is repurposed and then it becomes a stone. For the rock itself hasn't changed, but what it is being used for has, thus requiring a name change. Today, we seek to repurpose rocks to stones.

Reduce, reuse, recycle, & repurpose have all become popular things to do to reduce waste and help our environment.

Have you ever repurposed anything?

Why did you do it?

Tell us about it...

### Going Deeper:

The Intervention of Samuel: 1 Samuel 7:3-6

Call to Repentance: “direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” (Vs. 3) \*2 Chronicles 7:14

Cause for Remembrance: “Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” (Vs.5)

Confession of Rededication: “So they gathered at Mizpah and drew water and poured it out before the LORD and fasted on that day and said there, “We have sinned against the LORD.” (Vs. 6)

‘Intervention’ is a word used to describe what happens when a person or group of people step into a dangerous or destructive situation or relationship to try to bring peace, reconciliation, and healing. The ones doing the intervening can see a very clear picture and know what a better outcome looks like. In this historical episode, Samuel wants to intervene for the Israelites to help them get right with

God. They have been guilty of worshipping false things and are now ready to get right with God and stop sinning.

Have you ever had a person who intervened in your life to help you get out of a bad situation?

How did they help you get right with God or someone else?

See Ephesians 2:1-7. How did Jesus do this for you?

**The Importance of the Sacrifice:** (1 Samuel 7:7-11)

**Fear of the People:** *"And the people of Israel said to Samuel, "Do not cease to cry out to the LORD our God for us, that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines." (Vs. 8)*

**Faith in the Lamb:** *"So Samuel took a nursing lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the LORD. And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him." (Vs. 9)*

**Faithfulness of God:** *"As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But the LORD thundered with a mighty sound that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion, and they were defeated before Israel." (Vs.10)*

Being reconciled to God through intervention or sacrifice is a picture of what Jesus will later do for all people. **See Isaiah 53:7, 53:12b, and John 1:29.** Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior, and pay for your sins?

## **The Inscription on the Stone: (1 Samuel 7:12-13)**

**Location of the Stone:** *“Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen” (Vs.12)*

**Lesson of the Stone:** *“and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, “Till now the LORD has helped us.” (Vs.12)*

**Legacy of the Stone:** *“So the Philistines were subdued and did not again enter the territory of Israel. And the hand of the LORD was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.” (Vs.13)*

*Ebenezer* means “stone of help.” From then on, every time an Israelite saw the stone erected by Samuel, he would have a tangible reminder of the Lord’s power and protection. The “stone of help” marked the spot where the enemy had been routed and God’s promise to bless His repentant people had been honored. The Lord had helped them, ‘all the way to Ebenezer.’ This would be similar to you taking a trip and stopping on the roadside to read a historical marker from the Texas Revolution. You would remember some history, and know that it was at this place that something very significant happened. **Think back over your life and reflect on the times and places where it is obvious that God has stepped in and intervened or helped you. Share one of those times with us....**

**Take Away:** The X that marks the spot is the place where you go from this place and put an X in a location that reminds you daily that you are “KNOWN BUT TO GOD”.

**Prayer:**