



Series: 1 Samuel
Week 7: Faithful God Answers Repentant Hearts

Questions

Ice-breaker question (to get people talking): Do you have a testimony to share of a time when God was faithful in your life? If so, please share it with the group.

- 1) 1 Samuel 7 shows the necessity of repentance, the importance of prayer and teaches about the faithfulness of God. What do you think is important about these three themes? (This is a naughty, 'what's in teacher's head question', but should provide some interesting feedback. My thinking here is that, if we heed the lessons from this chapter, they will help us to become more fruitful disciples.)
- 2) '**Genuine repentance** leads to a right relationship with God and answers to prayer.'
Repentance is so much more than confession. **Read Mark 1:14-15.** Jesus preached that people should repent and believe. How can we genuinely repent?
- 3) '**Genuine repentance** leads to a **right relationship with God** and answers to prayer.'
After the Israelites had repented fully, their relationship with God changed for the better. We see a great example of this in the life of Paul. (You might want to read through Acts 9:1-19.) He had a complete life re-orientation after his experience with Jesus on the road to Damascus.
Read Philippians 3:1-11.
Here we see the results of someone who has achieved much, but their perspective is oriented around Christ. What do you think it means to have a right relationship with God? What things might you need to 'remove' from your life to improve that relationship? Or, how might your perspective need to change on some things?
- 4) '**Genuine repentance** leads to a right relationship with God and **answers to prayer.**'
Read John 14:1-14.
Jesus is nearing the end of his time on earth and is giving his disciples their final teaching. In this chapter Jesus gives the first promise of the Holy Spirit. Verse 14 says that if they ask anything in His name, he will do it. This is fruitfulness: receiving answers to prayer. Notice the context, however, has more to do with Jesus returning to the Father. This reminds us of the number of times Jesus said he only does what he sees the Father doing. There is something here about our relationship with Him which comes before our asking things of him.
What is the most important thing about prayer before we ask? (Listening!!!)
What are some things you can do in your prayer together as a group or individually to increase in your ability to listen to Him?
Spend some time listening to Him in prayer before you talk about all the things you want prayer for. Enjoy his presence and speak truth into your lives.