International Bible Study Commentary
Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible
L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

1 Samuel 7:3–11, 15–17 Discussion Questions

Choose 1 or more Questions from each of the five below.

1. Samuel called Israel to return to the LORD with all their heart, put away their idols, and serve Him only (1 Samuel 7:3–4).

What did Samuel tell the people to do to show that they were truly returning to the LORD?

Why must genuine repentance include changes in our behavior as well as words of confession?

What might compete with our devotion to God today, and how can we direct our hearts to Him and serve Him only?

2. At Mizpah, the people fasted and confessed, "We have sinned against the LORD" (1 Samuel 7:5–6).

What did the people acknowledge about their sins, and why was this confession necessary?

How can fasting and prayer help us humble ourselves before God without becoming substitutes for obedience?

How can believers encourage one another to confess their sins and renew their commitment to the Lord Jesus?

3. When the Philistines approached, the frightened Israelites asked Samuel to keep praying for them (1 Samuel 7:7–8).

What does the people's request for prayer show about where they were now looking for help?

How does their response differ from Israel's earlier attempt to use the Ark to secure victory, as described in the lesson?

When we feel afraid even after turning back to God, how can we continue to trust Him and ask others to pray for us?

4. Samuel offered a lamb and cried out to the LORD, who answered and delivered Israel (1 Samuel 7:9–11).

How did the LORD answer Samuel, and how did the Israelites respond to the help He gave them?

How does the lesson connect Samuel's sacrifice with Jesus, whom John the Baptist called "the Lamb of God" (John 1:29)?

What does this account teach us about God's mercy and our need to depend on Him while obeying Him?

5. Samuel faithfully judged Israel throughout his life and built an altar to the LORD at Ramah (1 Samuel 7:15–17).

What do Samuel's yearly visits to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah show about his care for God's people?

How did Samuel's service and worship show his continuing devotion to the LORD?

What specific step can you take this week to show your faith in Jesus through faithful service and obedience?