

Christ Community Church

Community Group Discussion Guide for Week of October 18, 2026

Announcements

1. **Community Group:** Be sure to access your Community Group document to sign up to bring a snack or dessert item to a future Community Group.
2. **Boiler Room Prayer Gathering:** Join others on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month at 9:00 AM in the YMCA to pray for ourselves, our neighbors, our city, and whatever else.
3. **Future Meetups:** Next Women's Meetup is Thursday, Nov. 5 from 7:30 to 9:00 PM at Wine Not in Symmes Township. Next MAC Sunday is Nov. 8 at Mac's Pizza Pub in Blue Ash after Church - Next Men's Meetup is Friday, November. 12 from 7:30 to 9:00 at Fowling Warehouse in Oakley.
4. **OGB Holiday Store Drive:** Bring new, unwrapped Christmas gifts to the Operation Give Back donation bin at the Blue Ash YMCA from October 19 to December 6 to help provide Christmas presents for local children and families in need.
5. **YMCA Thanksgiving Baskets:** Donate food items to the YMCA for local families this Thanksgiving! Collection is from October 1st-Nov 18th! On Nov 18th volunteers are needed to assemble the Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets! Please bring donations and sign up to assemble on the Y's website.
6. **YMCA Boo Fest:** Gather at the Blue Ash YMCA on October 29 from 5:30 to 7:30PM for their annual Trunk or Treat. Christ Community Church will be passing out fidgets, candy, invitations to church, and more. All are welcome to attend, but if you would like to participate, let Eric know.

Opening Question

Can you think of a time when you got lost, took a wrong turn, or needed someone to help you find your way? What happened?

1 Samuel 7:3-17

Leader's Note: Open with a brief prayer, asking God to make the group receptive to His Word. Then invite someone to read the passage aloud. (For longer sections, consider dividing the reading among several people.)

[3] And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, "If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." [4] So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.

[5] Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." [6] 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." And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. [7] Now when the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it, they were afraid of the Philistines. [8] 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." [9] 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. [10] 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. [11] And the men of Israel went out from Mizpah and pursued the Philistines and struck them, as far as below Beth-car.

[12] Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer; for he said, "Till now the LORD has helped us." [13] 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. [14] The cities that the Philistines had taken from Israel were restored to Israel, from Ekron to Gath, and Israel delivered their territory from the hand of the Philistines. There was peace also between Israel and the Amorites.

[15] Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. [16] And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places. [17] Then he would return to Ramah, for his home was there, and there also he judged Israel. And he built there an altar to the LORD.

Setting the Stage

In 1 Samuel 7:3–17, we discover that despite Israel's repeated wandering and unfaithfulness, God graciously restores His people, calling them to return to Him and remember His faithfulness. And just like Israel, we have wandering hearts and forgetful minds, continually in need of God's restoring grace.

Discussion Questions

1. In 1 Samuel 7:3–4, Samuel calls Israel to turn away from the false gods they had been trusting and return to the Lord with all their hearts. While we may not worship the same idols as Israel, we can still look to other things for the security, happiness, or hope that only God can provide. What are some things you've found yourself depending on for security or satisfaction, and how have they impact your relationship with God, others, and yourself?

Potential Follow-Up Question(s): What makes these things so easy to depend on? What might it look like to turn toward God in those areas of your life?

2. In 1 Samuel 7:5–11, when the Philistines threaten Israel again, the people recognize their need for help and ask Samuel to pray for them, trusting in God's power to deliver them rather than their own strength. Why do you think it can be difficult for people to ask God or others for help when they're struggling?

Potential Follow-Up Question(s): How might remembering God's grace change the way we respond when we feel helpless? How might remembering that same grace shape the way we respond when others come to us for help?

3. In 1 Samuel 7:12–14, Samuel sets up a stone called Ebenezer, meaning “stone of help,” to remind Israel of how the Lord had helped them. Remembering God's past faithfulness can encourage us to trust Him in the present. When you look back on your life, where have you seen God's care or provision in ways that encourage you today?

Potential Follow-Up Questions: Are there people, places, or experiences that remind you of God's faithfulness? What practices, rhythms, or personal “stones of remembrance” help you remember His faithfulness?

4. In 1 Samuel 7:15–17, we see Samuel faithfully caring for God's people year after year. God didn't simply rescue Israel and leave them on their own; He continued to provide for them through Samuel's ordinary ministry. Who are some people God has used to care for, encourage, or guide you through the ordinary seasons of life?

Potential Follow-Up Questions: What did their care look like in practice? How might their example shape the way you care for others?

5. In 1 Samuel 7:15–17, Samuel's ongoing ministry reminds us that God often works through ordinary people and everyday acts of faithfulness. And just as God used Samuel to care for Israel, He can use us to extend His love and grace to others. Who has God placed in your life who might be wandering, hurting, or struggling, and what might it look like to come alongside them?

Potential Follow-Up Questions: How can we pray for these people right now?

Prayer

Leader's Note: Wrap up your time by moving into prayer using ACTS—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication—as a simple guide. Move naturally through each category, inviting group members to share requests as appropriate before you begin praying together, encouraging others to pray for them as they feel led, then close by thanking God for His Word and for your time together.

- **Adoration:** Praise God for who He is and what He has done, expressing your love, worship, and delight in Him.
- **Confession:** Honestly acknowledge the ways you have failed to trust God and His promises and to love Him and others as you should, receiving His forgiveness through Christ and asking for His grace to grow in faithful obedience.
- **Thanksgiving:** Thank God for His grace, His provision, His faithfulness, His answered prayers, and the blessings that are yours in Christ.
- **Supplication:** Ask God to work in your life, your family, your church, your neighbors, and throughout the world, praying that His kingdom would come and His will would be done.

Closing Prayer Prompt

Father, we thank You that through Jesus Christ, You faithfully pursue, rescue, and restore Your wandering people. Help us to return to You when our hearts wander, remember Your faithfulness in every season of life, and extend the same grace and love we've received to those around us. Amen.
