



REMEMBER & HOPE

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 1: LOOK BACK

Read the Text

1 Samuel 7: 3-13

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.

Main Point

Since Doxa’s beginning, we take the first sermon of the year to look back and celebrate what God has done through His people. This is a time to reflect on His faithfulness and how He has blessed Doxa with new servants, relationships, mission, learning, and this year – a new space.

Reflect Together

- 1. *Who is God?*** Why does God care about the work of the Church, and Doxa in particular? Why are things like new servants, relationships, mission, learning and a new space important?
- 2. *What has He done?*** What are some things you are celebrating as you reflect on what God did in 2022? This can relate to Doxa, your MC, or to you personally. How has He grown and transformed you this past year?
- 3. *Who are you?*** We talked on Sunday about embracing our weaknesses. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says “But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.” What weaknesses do you have that you could grow in embracing?
- 4. *What are you to do?*** Consider your participation in Doxa’s flourishing in 2022. What could God be calling you to in 2023? Consider your family, MC, Doxa, and community as a whole.

Abide Together

As an MC, praise and celebrate what God did in your personal lives, in your MC life, and at Doxa this past year. Consider using the ACTS model of adoration (adoring God for who He is), confession (confessing where you've maybe sinned or been in rebellion), thanksgiving (thanking Him for what He has done), and supplication (seeking His help in your current walk with Him).

Mission Together

How does your MC want to participate in making 2023 a year of obeying and following Jesus? Is there a people group or community service opportunity you could participate in together? A Sunday team at Doxa you could get involved in? Brainstorm together!