

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### *1 Samuel 12:16-23*

#### **Talk About**

- Have you (or seen someone else) been made redundant from a job? How did you react to the process?
- How did you feel when you suddenly realised that a previous decision was wrong - and you couldn't change your mind?
- How do you respond when you hear about God-given miracles that others have experienced?

#### **Read About**

- 1 Samuel 12 is headed "Samuel's Farewell Speech". But who does Samuel want the people to focus upon (v.16)?
- What crops were being harvested at this time (v.17a)?
- What "evil thing" had the people asked for (v.17b)? Why was this a bad request? See 1 Samuel 8:4-7.
- How soon after Samuel's prayer did God respond (v.18)?
- How did the people respond to seeing the thunder and rain (v.19a)? What did they realise they had done (v.19b)?
- Summarise Samuel's instructions to the people (v.20-22).
- What *two* things does Samuel say he will do (v.23)?

#### **Think About**

- Does God show His power in nature to Christians today, similar to what Samuel witnessed? Why, or why not?
- How does God grab your attention when He wants to speak to you about something specific?
- What one, clear message should Christians declare throughout the world today?
- What has God been speaking to you about as a result of reading this Bible passage?
- You could end by reading / memorising 1 Samuel 12:20.

## **1 Samuel 12:16-23 (NIVUK)**

<sup>16</sup> 'Now then, stand still and see this great thing the Lord is about to do before your eyes! <sup>17</sup> Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call on the Lord to send thunder and rain. And you will realise what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the Lord when you asked for a king.'

<sup>18</sup> Then Samuel called on the Lord, and that same day the Lord sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the Lord and of Samuel.

<sup>19</sup> The people all said to Samuel, 'Pray to the Lord your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.'

<sup>20</sup> 'Do not be afraid,' Samuel replied. 'You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the Lord, but serve the Lord with all your heart. <sup>21</sup> Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. <sup>22</sup> For the sake of his great name the Lord will not reject his people, because the Lord was pleased to make you his own. <sup>23</sup> As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right.'