

Tonight's

passage – 1 Samuel 7.¹⁻¹⁷

theme – choose!

The stone called Ebenezer was a reminder of the way in which as the people of Israel turned back to the Lord and trusted Him, He helped them. See if you can spot the stone on each page of the worksheet



time to choose ..



Sometimes you're faced by a choice as to which way to go in life.

YAHWEH

YAHWEH is the name God gives Himself in the Bible: it's usually translated 'the LORD'

Your way

you

also have to choose – all of us have to!

Maybe tonight the Lord is putting **you** on the spot!



Tonight's passage is about a time when the people of Israel had to make a choice. Were they going to follow the Lord – or carry on going their own way?



SAMUEL

turning back to the LORD

Read 1 Samuel 7 verses 1-4

¹The men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up **the ark** of the Lord. They brought it to Abinadab's house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard **the ark** of the Lord.

²**The ark** remained at Kiriath Jearim a long time – twenty years in all.

Then all the people of Israel turned back to the Lord.

³So Samuel said to all the Israelites, 'If you are returning to the Lord with all your hearts, then rid yourselves of the foreign gods and the Ashtoreths and commit yourselves to the Lord and serve Him only, and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.'

⁴So the Israelites put away their Baals and Ashtoreths, and served the Lord only.

Samuel explained to them that turning back to the Lord meant getting rid of things which were taking the place of God.

Turning back to the Lord means that you

S _ _ _ _ **H** _ _ **O** _ _ _

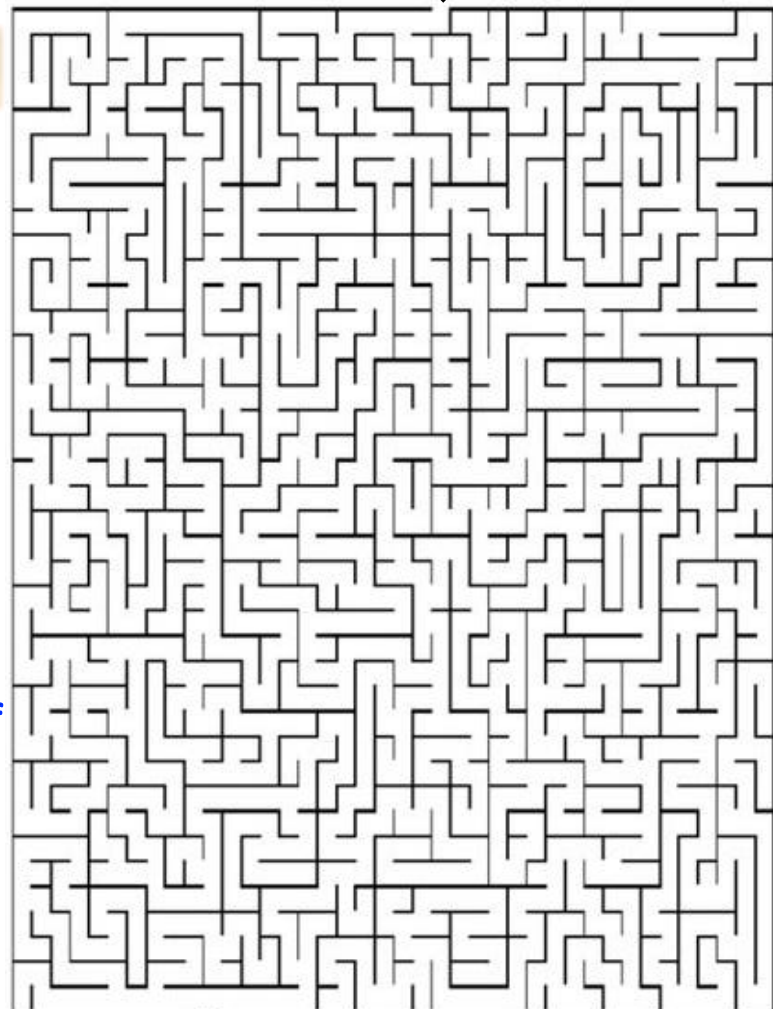
the people of Israel turned back to the LORD ↴

The ark was a large wooden box which contained the two tablets on which the law of God was written. It symbolised for the people the presence of God with them.



Kiriath Jearim was a kind of half-way house: and the ark being kept there was a sign that for twenty years the people were sort of sitting on the fence! It was time for them to turn back to the Lord.

Try to get back to the Lord ↴



ready for a battle



**Be bold,
be strong
For the Lord your God
is with you**

Turning to the Lord is a big step!

When you choose to follow Jesus and to 'serve Him only', almost always there'll be pressure on you not to do so.

It may be through your friends making fun of you. Or it may be that suddenly you're having to face difficulties and problems which came from out of the blue.

It can feel like 'all hell' is getting thrown at you!

One way or another, though, you'll find that when you choose to follow Jesus you've stepped into a battle.

That's what the people of Israel discovered here, when they turned back to the Lord!

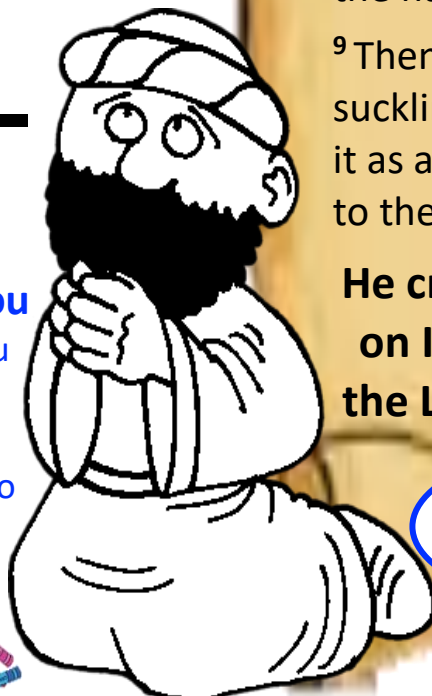
They were very **A** _ _ _ _ _

So they asked Samuel to pray for them.



When things frighten you or make you worried, you can ask God to help you.

You can ask other people to pray for you too: maybe your mum or dad, or your leader at church.



**Read
1 Samuel 7
verses 5, 7-9**

⁵ Then Samuel said,
'Assemble all Israel at Mizpah, and I will intercede with the Lord for you.'

*

⁷ When the Philistines heard that Israel had assembled at Mizpah, **the rulers of the Philistines came up to attack them.** When the Israelites heard of it, they were afraid because of the Philistines.

⁸ They said to Samuel, 'Do not stop crying out to the Lord our God for us, that he may rescue us from the hand of the Philistines.'

⁹ Then Samuel took a suckling lamb and sacrificed it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord.

He cried out to the Lord on Israel's behalf, and the Lord answered him.

Check this out!
That's what happens when you ask God to help!



trusting God for the future

Read

1 Samuel 7
verses 10, 12

¹⁰ While Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to engage Israel in battle.

But that day the Lord thundered with loud thunder against the Philistines and threw them into such a panic that they were routed before the Israelites.

¹² Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen.

He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.'

learning from the Lord

choosing to serve the Lord
Jesus only is a big step

The people had turned back to the Lord.

Samuel had prayed to the Lord.

And the Lord had answered to help them.

The name **Jesus** means simply –

Fill in the blanks using the letters below

H O R S E S **V**
D E L T A

Samuel spent all his days teaching the people.

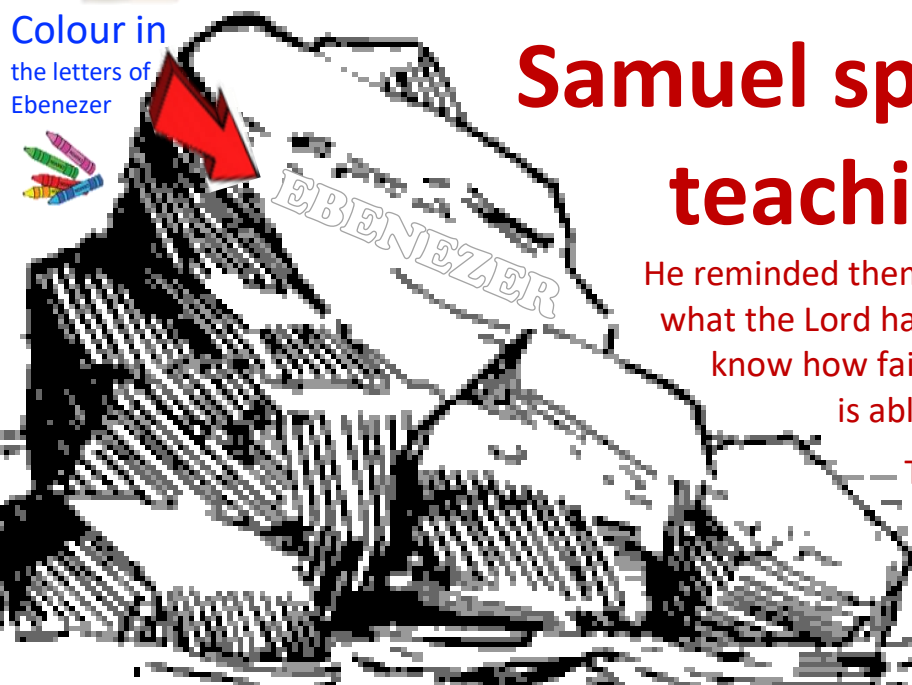
He reminded them of who the Lord is and of what the Lord had done. He wanted them to know how faithful the Lord is and how He is able to rescue His people. Always.

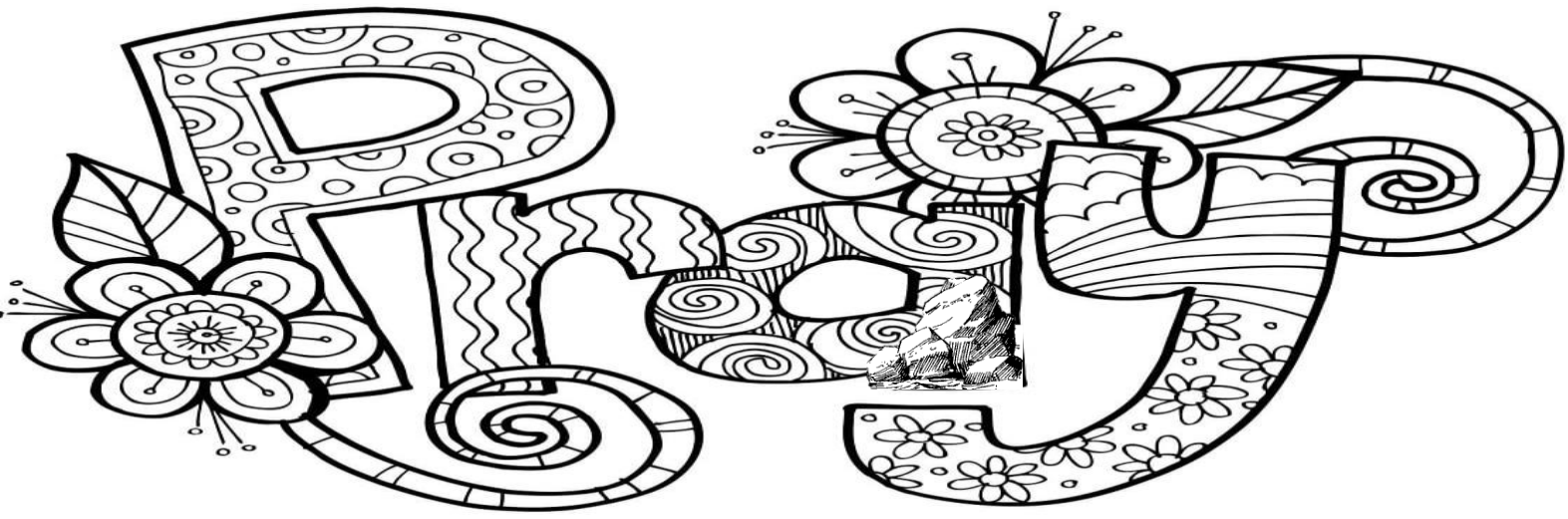
— The name '**Ebenezer**' said it all "thus far the Lord has helped us ..".

Trust the Lord always and serve Him only!



Colour in
the letters of
Ebenezer





Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet.

Speak to God about what you've learned: if you want, use this prayer to help you

It's great, Lord, that You gave the people a leader who was so patient.

Thank You that Samuel stuck with the people, teaching them all the time and helping them to understand how important it was to follow You alone.

**Thank You for all the different people who teach me from Your Word.
Help me to be a good learner.**

**I want to commit myself to You
and to serve You, Lord Jesus,
and You alone.**

**I know that won't be easy, so
please help me to be brave and
strong and to keep trusting You
always, even when the going gets
hard and I don't know how I'll be
able to cope.**



**Thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving me and
for being the one who leads Your people so carefully all the time!**

Today's verse for you to try and remember!

**“Commit
yourselves to the Lord
and serve Him only”
1 Samuel 7.³**



Wordsearch

Here's a Wordsearch based on the story of Samuel again.
See if you can find all the words

D M P N R D E L I S E G D U J F V
X D L L E U Q P R E Q G H B N E J
R S S T N E M D N A M M O C J I B
W M E W G H J O S H U A O A J K O
A I F G A B C W D G X Z T L N R P
N M L N D E L C A N R E B A T A S
J E N E B I S H I L O H R B T P E
V A W Y Y C R U K R D M J C A T N
H N F Y X A K B R Y E N L X H Y I
S P D R C L X O F S Y H A U Z A T
T A O K X L F W X L A S Q C A C S
J T B S W I Y Q I M R N Q R R S I
M E A G N N R Q D M P P V G I Z L
E X H N K G K F I K Z R Y T B F I
W Y C I L S V E B E N E Z E R C H
N F I K O M M G T P M R P Z E K P
F P A P L N F R C I S U P H W Z D

commandments	Calling	Saul	philistines
shiloh	Ebenezer	ichabod	Ark
Tabernacle	Eli	Prayed	Hannah
Bridge	Kings	Judges	Joshua



COLOUR in the picture

Try colouring in the picture below as neatly as you can!



Try writing onto the scroll
which Samuel is holding the words below –

commit yourselves to the
Lord and serve Him only

