

**Maturing in Ministry**  
**Prophetic Living – Part 2**  
Life Church St. Louis – March 8, 2020  
Lead Pastor – Dr. Dan Walker  
Message Videos – [www.lcstl.org/messages](http://www.lcstl.org/messages)

*Ephesians 4:11-12 (ESV) And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,*

*Romans 12:6-8 (ESV) Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

**1. God's \_\_\_\_\_ lost**

*1 Samuel 6:1 (ESV) The ark of the LORD was in the country of the Philistines seven months.*

**1A. God's presence \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Samuel 7:1-2 (ESV) And the men of Kiriath-jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD and brought it to the house of Abinadab on the hill. And they consecrated his son Eleazar to have charge of the ark of the LORD. From the day that the ark was lodged at Kiriath-jearim, a long time passed, some twenty years, and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD.*

**1B. Samuel calls for \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Samuel 7:3-4a (ESV) 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."*

*1 Samuel 7:4b (ESV) So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.*

**2. Samuel \_\_\_\_\_ for the people**

*1 Samuel 7:5-6 (ESV) Then Samuel said, "Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you." 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.*

**2A. The \_\_\_\_\_ attacks**

*1 Samuel 7:7-8 (ESV) 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. 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."*

**2B. God \_\_\_\_\_ the enemy**

*1 Samuel 7:9b-10 (ESV) And Samuel cried out to the LORD for Israel, and the LORD answered him. 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.*

**3. God brings \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Samuel 7:12-13 (ESV) 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." 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.*

**3A. The nation is \_\_\_\_\_**

*1 Samuel 7:14 (ESV) 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.*

**3B. Samuel is a \_\_\_\_\_ judge**

*1 Samuel 7:15-16 (ESV) Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life. And he went on a circuit year by year to Bethel, Gilgal, and Mizpah. And he judged Israel in all these places.*

**Action Plan for This Week**

Have a daily time of Bible reading & prayer (Read 1 Samuel 6-7).  
 Mon  Tue  Wed  Thu  Fri  Sat  Sun

Invite a friend to the service next Sunday.

How will I obey God's Word this week? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Maturing in Ministry Study Guide

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- Intro. How would you define ministry?
- Intro. Who is to do the ministry of the church according to Ephesians 4:11-12?  
What is the role of church leaders?
- Intro. How has God equipped each church member to do ministry (Romans 12:6-8)?
- 1A. Why do you think that God allowed the ark of the covenant to be captured (1 Samuel 6:1)?
- 1B. What was wrong with the ark being kept in a private home (1 Samuel 7:1-2)?
- 1C. What was Samuel's message to the Israelites (1 Samuel 7:3-4)?
- 1D. What are some practices or idols today that believers may be tempted to try to serve along with the Lord?
- 1E. Why are the depraved practices of child sacrifice and sexual perversion associated with Baal and Ashtaroth still prevalent today?
- 2A. In what ways was the nation's repentance for their sin shown (1 Samuel 7:5-6)?
- 2B. Why would the enemy attack after a spiritual breakthrough (1 Samuel 7:7-8)?
- 2C. How was the enemy defeated (1 Samuel 7:9-10)?
- 2D. How can the idols worshipped in our land be defeated? What is the responsibility of believers and the church to be involved politically?
- 3A. Why is it important to remember and celebrate God's victories (1 Samuel 7:12-13)?
- 3B. What are some ways spiritual revival can bring restoration in our lives and nation (1 Samuel 7:14)?
- 3C. Why is it essential that a nation have righteous judges (1 Samuel 7:15-16)?
- 3D. In what areas of influence in our nation do you believe God wants to raise up righteous leaders?
- 3E. How can you fulfill God's call to ministry within the church family?