

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Standing Stones

**Week 4: Recommitment: Returning to God**  
**1 Samuel Ch. 4-7**

**Week of June 27, 2021**  
**(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)**

God is on a relentless mission to draw His people back to Him and wants to see us pursue Him first in our lives. And sometimes, He even allows us to walk through difficult seasons or even walk away from Him while He still tries to pursue us in grace.

**Kicking it off:** Jeff began his message at an old abandoned water park. What was your favorite summertime hangout when you were a teenager?

### Discussion:

1. For some background info, read Exodus 25:10, 16. What was the major significance of the Ark of the Covenant? Why was it so sacred to the people of Israel?

*“Have them make an ark of acacia wood—two and a half cubits long, a cubit and a half wide, and a cubit and a half high. ... Then put in the ark the tablets of the covenant law, which I will give you.”*

2. Now read 1 Samuel 4:10-11. What happened in the battle with the Philistines, and what difference did it make for both nations' armies?

*“So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.”*

3. What do you think leads people into spiritual drifting? How does that tie in to losing God's Word?
4. Sometimes God allows negative circumstances to happen that ultimately draw us closer and reunite us with Him. Has that ever happened to you — or someone close to you? If you're comfortable, tell the group what happened.
5. How can we tell if we're drifting away from God or just questioning our faith? What can your small group do to help you avoid chasing false idols and wandering from your faith?
6. In 1 Samuel 7:12, Samuel put up a standing stone named Ebenezer. How does God's relentless pursuit of the Israelites serve as a reminder of His grace in your life?

*“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.’”*

### Wrapping It Up:

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. As you close, thank God for His grace, and pray over each other to continue to help each group member renew or stay committed to God.

*“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.*