WOODVALE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

# Connect Group Sermon Aligned Discussion Guide.

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**Series Title**: YOUR EBENEZER STORY
**Key Scripture**: 1 Samuel 4 – 7
**Recorded Sermon**: www.woodvale.ca/pastservices/v/your-ebenezer-story
**Date + Speaker**: October 19th / Pastor Mark Scarr

**The Big Idea:**
Life may feel like it is over when we face defeat, loss or delays; but God's story is not over. What seems like an ending is often just a pause; His glory and victory are still coming.

**Starter**:
Has there ever been a moment in your life that did not make sense but later turned out to be a turning point?

**Discussion**:
1. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11 . Why do you think God allowed Israel to face such a painful defeat, event though the Ark was with them?
2. In 1 Samuel 4:21, the baby was named "Ichabod" meaning"The glory has departed." What do you think it feels like for a person, family, or church to be in an "Ichabod season"?
3. In 1 Samuel 5:1-4, Dagon fell before the captured Ark of the Lord. What does this reveal about God's sovereignty even when we feel very defeated?
4. In Samuel 7:2-6, there is an order: Return, Remove idols, Rally together, Repent. What are your thoughts on this order?
5. According to 1 Samuel 7:6, what is the difference between regret and repentance?

**Diving Deeper**:

1. What is one Idol that may be subtle or obvious that God might be asking His children to let go of today?
   ***Let them come up with their own examples. Some common examples are Control, Success, Children, Security, Work etc****
2. How can someone follow religious routines but not truly connect with God?
3. In 1 Samuel 7:2, Israel "turned back to the Lord" only after 20 years of spiritual dryness. Why do you think people often wait so long before turning back to God fully?
4. "Ebenezer" can be a place of defeat or a place of victory, what determines which one it will be in a situation?
5. The sermon reminds us, "Don't put a PERIOD where God has placed a COMMA!". Why is this important and in what ways might we be tempted to write a period right now?

**Prayer**

- Ask God to reveal where you may have written a period instead of trusting Him, and to help you return fully to Him.
- Pray for strength and wisdom to see God's hand at work, turning challenges into testimony in your life.