

## 1 Samuel 5-6 "The Ark of God!"

1. God was right there—waiting patiently for His people to call on Him—ready to **DWELL** with them, **protect** them, **FIGHT** for them!
2. The Lord and His **glory** departed—this is the result of a **MISPLACED** faith...
3. Only put your faith in the **PROMISES** of God and the **PERSON** of God!
4. God is not to be **TRIFLED WITH**...
5. God is not to be used as a **TROPHY**.
6. "Don't think that being **SPIRITUAL** will save you."
7. The ark represented the presence of a **HOLY** God...

## 1 Samuel 5-6 "The Ark of God!"

1. God was right there—waiting patiently for His people to call on Him—ready to \_\_\_\_\_ with them, **protect** them, \_\_\_\_\_ **for them!**  
(1 Samuel 4:3-4; Exodus 25:8, 22)
2. The Lord and His glory departed—this is the result of a \_\_\_\_\_ faith...
3. Only put your faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ of God!
4. God is not to be \_\_\_\_\_.
5. God is not to be used as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Revelation 3:20; 1 John 1:9)
6. "Don't think that being \_\_\_\_\_ will save you."  
(1 Samuel 4:8-9; 2 Peter 3:9)
7. The ark represented the presence of a \_\_\_\_\_ God...  
(Romans 6:3)

- 6) The Philistines served a “dead” god, or idol, named Dagon. List several differences between the one, true God and an idol.

**God:**

**Idols:**

- 7) Look at how God is described in the following passages. Why is it important that God is “the living God”?  
**Psalm 42:2** - "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"

**Psalm 84:2** - "My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God."

### TAKING IT HOME

- 8) Are there any interests, hobbies, or sins that have crept their way onto the “throne” of your life? If so, what do you plan to do this week to fix it?
- 9) Looking back at your notes and homework, what do you most need to remember or put into practice?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- ▶ Pray for the persecuted church in Nigeria.
- ▶
- ▶

## Life Group Homework For the week of May 29, 2022

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- 1) What are you most looking forward to this summer?

### REVIEW

- 2) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week’s message? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

### DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) In 1 Samuel 5-6, the Philistines were eventually willing to *admit* that they were fighting against God - yet, they remained unwilling to *submit* to God themselves. Read the passages below about how Egypt responded to some of God’s miracles and plagues.

**Exodus 7:2-5** - "[2] "You shall speak all that I command you. And Aaron your brother shall tell Pharaoh to send the children of Israel out of his land. [3] "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt. [4] "But Pharaoh will not heed you, so that I may lay My hand on Egypt and bring My armies and My people, the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. [5] "And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch out My hand on Egypt and bring out the children of Israel from among them.""

**Exodus 8:15** - "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said."

**Exodus 8:19** - "Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said."

**Exodus 8:31-32** - "[31] And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained. [32] But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go."

Why do you think Pharaoh repeatedly hardened his heart?

What do you think was God's purpose in sending the plagues to Egypt?

There are several possible answers for the last question, but what do you think God's purpose was regarding Exodus 7:5?

With this understanding, why do you think God allowed the Philistines to "capture" the ark of God and then greatly *suffer* because of it? What do you think was God's purpose?

4) Sin can sometimes be described as "fun" or "momentarily pleasing", yet people are often left with guilt, shame,

scars, and baggage. Why do you think God allows sin to come with so many bad side effects?

What do you think God's purpose is in those bad *side effects* of sin?

5) This week we learned that, even if we're a Christian, we constantly struggle to keep God on the "throne" of our lives. What stands out to you from the diagram below? (The black dots represent our interests)



What might be a warning sign in your life, indicating that you've allowed your "self" to get back on the throne?

What are some practical ways to "de-throne" your "self" and put Jesus back on the throne?