

1 Samuel Chapter 4-6: Study and Discussion Questions

1. Did the Israelites “blame” the absence of God for defeat(s) against the Philistines?
2. Why did the Israelites risk moving the Ark of the Covenant of God?
 - a. Have you ever relied on a “good-luck-charm” to help you?
3. How did the Philistines respond when the Ark of the Covenant was brought from Shiloh?
 - a. When they first heard the Israelites shout - did this intimidate them?
 - b. What did they decide to do?

How do we resist God?
4. What made the heart of Eli tremble?
 - a. Why was he so concerned about the Ark of God?
 - b. Was he concerned for his sons Hophni and Phinehas?
5. Discuss the statement made by Eli’s daughter-in-Law, “the glory of God is gone...”
6. The Ark of God was placed amongst idols. In what ways do we turn God into idols?
7. Upon the destruction of the Philistine god, Dagon and the horrific tumors that followed, the Philistines thought they could get rid of Him. Discuss the times we, as Christians, have either run away from God, or tried to silence His voice.
8. The Ark then journeyed from one Philistine city to the next, like a “hot potato.” What might any of these cities have done instead of rejecting the Ark?
9. With all the plagues, why did the Philistines keep the Ark for seven months?
10. What “trespass offering” did the Philistines give?
11. Why did the Philistines continue to worship their inferior gods, even after acknowledging the Power of Lord Almighty?
12. Beth Shemesh did not want to keep the Ark – why?