

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, May 22, 2022

Passage: 1 Samuel 4:11-22

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 4:11-22.** What did the torn clothes and dirt on the head of the runner indicate?

(b) Why do you think Eli was so concerned about the ark? (CSB reads “he was anxious;” ESV says “his heart trembled”)

(c) How could Eli have been “watching” (v.13) when verse 15 tells us that due to his old age, he couldn’t see?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 4:11-22.** Do you see any significance in the fact that Eli’s tragic death occurred when he heard about the captured ark, rather than the death of his sons?

(b) There is a short epitaph in v.18b that simply states, “Eli had judged Israel forty years.” Considering what you know about Eli’s life, what sort of legacy do you think he left for future generations?

(c) How does the death of Phineas’ wife compare to the death of Eli?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 4:11-22.** What might have led Phineas’ wife to draw the conclusion that “the glory has departed from Israel”? Was she correct in her assessment?

(b) Go back and read the entire chapter, **1 Samuel 4:1-22.** What lessons can we derive from this passage about how our own bad decisions and sinful actions can impact those around us?

(c) What are some ways in which churches in our day might suffer the consequences of trusting in symbols and religious techniques instead of the power of the Gospel?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 4:11-22; Psalm 78:56-61.** In Psalm 78:60-61, the writer reminds Israel that God “forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind, and delivered his power to captivity, his glory to the hand of the foe.” What does this text teach us about the sovereignty of God in the midst of Israel’s defeat?

- (b) Is it possible for the glory of God to depart from God's people today? Why or why not? If so, what might this scenario look like in the life of the 21st century church?
- (c) What does this text teach us about the significance of the ark of God in the spiritual life of the nation of Israel? What did the ark foreshadow in the life of the New Covenant believer?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 4:11-22.** Have there been times in your life when you have relied on human ingenuity as opposed to God's word when making decisions? What consequences of these decisions did you experience?

(b) When confronted with spiritual "defeat" in your life, what is your first instinct as to how you should respond?

(c) How does scripture encourage us when those around us fail to properly recognize the glory of God?

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Ichabod!