

Small Group graphic  
Series graphic w/email

### 1 Samuel Review:

- Hannah's prayer & God's sufficiency
- The seriousness of sin
- God's work → God's Word

God/Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ = Happiness; Security; Identity

*{come up one at a time}*

When things do not go our way ...

... And God does not seem to help ...

### Age of Frustration

#### 1 Samuel 4:1-2

And **Samuel's words** came to all Israel. Israel went out to meet the Philistines in battle and camped at Ebenezer while the Philistines camped at Aphek. The Philistines lined up in battle formation against Israel, and as the battle intensified, Israel was **defeated by the Philistines**, who struck down about four thousand men on the battlefield.

#### 1 Samuel 4:3-4

When the troops returned to the camp, the elders of Israel asked, "**Why did the Lord** defeat us today before the Philistines? Let's bring **the ark** of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh. Then it will go with us and save us from our enemies." So the people sent men to Shiloh to bring back the **ark of the covenant** of the Lord of Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim. Eli's two sons, **Hophni and Phinehas**, were there with the **ark of the covenant of God**.

The Ark = **Rabbit's Foot Religion**

#### Error #1:

**Trying** to get God to do **what we want**

#### 1 Samuel 4:5

When the **ark of the covenant** of the Lord entered the camp, all the Israelites raised such a loud shout that the ground shook.

*{all on one slide}*

[God/Jesus + **Ark**] + **Military Success** = Happiness; Security; Identity

→How are they viewing God and coming to God?

*{come up one at a time}*

God *might* be **useful** OR God is *always* **worthy**?

→His worth before our wants ... always!

### I Samuel 4:6-8

The Philistines heard the sound of the war cry and asked, “What’s this loud shout in the Hebrews’ camp?” When the Philistines discovered that the **ark of the Lord** had entered the camp, they **panicked**. “A god has entered their camp!” they said. “Woe to us! Nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who will rescue us from these magnificent gods? These are the gods that **slaughtered the Egyptians** with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness.

### I Samuel 4:9

**Show some courage and be men**, Philistines! Otherwise, you’ll serve the Hebrews just as they served you. Now **be men and fight!**”

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#### We are Philistines:

- If they believed Yahweh was >>> their gods → THEN SURRENDER!
- If they believed Yahweh was <<< their gods → WHY PANIC?

→They fight ... in the flesh instead of fighting their flesh.

*{come up one at a time}*

#### Error #2:

Fighting the **wrong battle**.

→The right battle is always to get **to surrender**.

### I Samuel 4:10-11

So the Philistines fought, and Israel was **defeated**, and each man fled to his tent. The slaughter was severe—thirty thousand of the Israelite foot soldiers fell. The ark of God was **captured**, and Eli’s two sons, **Hophni and Phinehas, died**.

#### Why is so much violence in the Bible?

- 1) To show what people are capable of apart from God (Deut. 28:1-2)
- 2) To show the seriousness of treason against God
- 3) To show that ultimately there is no salvation without violence

### **Revelation 13:8**

All those who live on the earth will worship it (*the beast of blasphemy*), everyone whose name was not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the **Lamb who was slaughtered**.

### **Error #3:**

**Failure to know God as **fire**.**

### **Hebrews 12:28-29**

... since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a **consuming fire**.

### **Malachi 3:2**

But who can endure the day of His coming? And who will be able to stand when He appears? For He will be like a **refiner's fire** ...

*{come up one at a time}*

### **Why Is God Like Fire?**

- **God is seriously & dreadfully holy**
- **We need to be refined**
- **God does not abandon impure people**

### **I Peter 1:3-7**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of His great mercy He has given us **new birth** into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you. You are being guarded by God's power through faith for a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. You rejoice in this, even though now for a short time, if necessary, you suffer grief in various trials so that the proven character of your faith—more valuable than gold which, though perishable, is **refined by fire**—may result in praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### **I Samuel 4:17-22**

*{A Messenger Comes to Eli}*

The messenger answered, "Israel has fled from the Philistines, and also there was a great slaughter among the people. Your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are **both dead**, and **the ark of God has been captured**." When he mentioned the ark of God, Eli fell backward off the chair by the city gate, and since he was old and heavy, his neck broke and he **died**. Eli had judged Israel forty years. Eli's daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant and about to give

birth. When she heard the news about the capture of God's ark and the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband, she collapsed and gave birth because her labor pains came on her [she]... named the boy Ichabod, saying, "The glory has **departed** from Israel," referring to the capture of the ark of God and to the deaths of her father-in-law and her husband. "The glory has **departed** from Israel," she said, "because the ark of God has been captured."

The furnace of **affliction & adversity** in the family of God is always for **refinement**, never for **destruction**.

**Error #4:**

Misunderstanding the **design of divine "departure"**.

Departure (~experienced absence) heightens or awakens desire ... For God!

*{all on one slide}*

Under God and in Christ, we live in the age of **anticipation**, not **gratification**.

→Trust God's **promises** over our **perceptions**

Our highest satisfaction is not what we receive in this life, but what we are promised in the next.

*{Come up one at a time; same slide; keep formatting}*

**God, You alone are worthy!**

**God, I give You my surrender.**

**God, I accept Your refining fire.**

**God, I believe the best is yet to come!**