

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 9, 2022

Passage: 1 Samuel 5:1-6:2

Memory Passage: Isaiah 42:8

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 2:12-4:22.** Your assignment for today is to review the events of chapters 2-4 which led up to the Ark of God being placed in the temple of Dagon. Write a paragraph or two describing the events of this section of Scripture focusing primarily on the sins and errors in judgement of Israel and her leaders, and the resulting consequences.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(b) **Read 1 Samuel 5:1-6:2.** What might have motivated the Philistines to place the Ark of God in the temple of Dagon?

(c) What message would have been communicated to the people of Ashdod when they found Dagon lying face-down before the Ark of the Lord?

(d) What obvious lesson concerning idolatry did the Philistines overlook when they (as humans) had to put Dagon (their god) back in his place (v.3)?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 5:1-6:2.** When Dagon is found prostrated before the Ark on the second morning, both his head and hands are broken off, and only his torso remained. How does the removal of these particular body parts indicate the powerlessness of Dagon as opposed to Yahweh?

(b) Why are Dagon's head and hands found lying on the "threshold" of the temple? What would have been the purpose of the threshold, and what message might this discovery have communicated to the people?

(c) Verse 5 tells us that the priests of Dagon (and all who enter the temple) refuse to step on the threshold even up to the time when 1 Samuel was written. What might have been the reason for adopting such a practice?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 5:1-6:2.** What might have caused the people of Ashdod to make the connection between their affliction with tumors and the Ark of Israel's God?

(b) Why would the people of Ashdod initially call a meeting of the Philistine rulers (“lords” or “governors,” depending on your translation) to determine what should be done with the Ark? Why not consult their religious leaders – the priests of Dagon? (Note that they eventually did seek advice from the “priests” and “diviners” in chapter 6, verse 2)

(c) Why would the Philistine leaders make the decision to move the Ark to Gath? And why would the people of Gath send the Ark to Ekron?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Samuel 5:1-6:2.** What the Philistines initially saw as one of the great spoils of war turned out to be a curse upon the people. Have you ever had a strong desire for something that turned out to be more of a curse than a blessing once you received it?

(b) What lessons should we learn from this passage about the nature and character of God?

(c) Clearly the Philistines had no idea as to what (or Who) they were dealing with when they captured the Ark of Yahweh. In what ways are you and I prone to misunderstand the awesome power and holiness of the God we serve?

(d) Think of at least three statements that people commonly make about God that reveal a failure to understand his true character. Jot down those statements and write a corresponding statement that reveals the truth regarding such statements.

FALSE STATEMENT

TRUE STATEMENT

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

DATE: October 9, 2022

PASSAGE: 1 Samuel 5:1-6:2