



Handling the Holy: What do you do with the Glory of God? (1 Sam 6-7)

Questions: Week Five

The Ark Returned to Israel - [1 Samuel 6:1-7:1](#)¹

Topics: [Advice](#), [Atonement](#), [Bargaining](#), [Celebration](#), [Consequences](#), [Curiosity](#), [Death](#), [Disobedience](#), [Fear](#), [Foolishness](#), [Guilt](#), [Hardheartedness](#), [Image](#), [Impulsiveness](#), [Instructions](#), [Intimidation](#), [Joy](#), [Judgment](#), [Mercy](#), [Motives](#), [Mourning](#), [Punishment](#), [Questions](#), [Remembering](#), [Restitution](#), [Restoration](#), [Sacrifice](#), [Sin](#), [Unbelievers](#)

Open It

1. Do you think "chance" thinking or "cause and effect" thinking is more prevalent in our society?
2. Who are the wise persons or counselors to whom we turn when we find ourselves in trouble?
3. *Why do you think human beings so commonly ask, "Why is this happening to me?"

Explore It

4. How long did the ark of God remain with the Philistines? ([6:1](#))
5. To whom did the Philistine people turn when they were desperate for a solution to their problem? ([6:2](#))
6. *Why did the diviners recommend sending gold back to Israel along with the ark? ([6:5](#))
7. How did the Philistine wise men know that it would be a miracle if the two cows went straight to Israel with the cart instead of heading back to their pens? ([6:7](#))
8. What "test" did the Philistine diviners design to determine whether God was really behind the plagues that came upon them when they took the ark captive? ([6:8-9](#))
9. Who followed behind the cart to see what would become of it? ([6:12](#))
10. What was the ark's first stop once it arrived in Israel? ([6:13](#))
11. What were the people doing when they saw the ark coming on the cart? ([6:13](#))
12. *What was the reaction of the Israelites to the unexpected arrival of the ark? ([6:13](#))

1. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "The Ark Returned to Israel - 1 Samuel 6:1-7:1".

13. What appropriate action did the Israelites take to acknowledge God's hand in the miraculous return of the ark? ([6:14](#))
14. What was the significance of five gold tumors and five gold rats? ([6:17-18](#))
15. What specific first resting place of the ark was remembered by Israel long after it was moved? ([6:18](#))
16. How did God react to the mishandling of the ark by His own people? ([6:19](#))
17. *What sin caused the deaths of seventy Israelites? ([6:19](#))
18. Why was the ark sent on from Beth Shemesh? ([6:20](#))

Get It

19. What assumptions underlay the recommendation of the Philistine wise men to send back an offering with the ark?
20. *Why was it a problem that some of the Israelites looked inside the ark?
21. What is your first reaction when confronted by an unexpected miracle from God in your life?
22. *In what ways is it a heavy responsibility to be the people of God?

Apply It

23. In what concrete ways can you show respect for the Bible?
24. How could you make restitution a part of your next act of repentance?
25. *In what concrete way could you model the fear of the Lord for your friends or children?

Samuel Subdues the Philistines at Mizpah - [1 Samuel 7:2-17](#)²

Topics: [Administration](#), [Atonement](#), [Authority](#), [Change](#), [Correction](#), [Danger](#), [Fasting](#), [Fear](#), [Heart](#), [Idolatry](#), [Leadership](#), [Miracles](#), [Mourning](#), [Obedience](#), [Peace](#), [People](#), [Persecution](#), [Persistence](#), [Protection](#), [Remembering](#), [Repentance](#), [Restoration](#), [Revenge](#), [Running](#), [Sacrifice](#), [Security](#), [Sin](#), [Spiritual Disciplines](#), [Success](#), [Thankfulness](#), [Victory](#), [War](#)

Open It

1. How would it feel to take part in a religious observance and see armed troops bearing down on you?
2. *What do you suppose would provoke people all over the country suddenly to turn to God?
3. What sorts of places tend to become national memorials?

Explore It

4. Although the ark was again within the borders of Israel, what was the mood of the subdued Israelites? ([7:2](#))
5. *How did Samuel define "returning to the Lord with all your hearts"? ([7:3](#))
6. What was God's promise if Israel would rid itself of idolatry? ([7:3](#))
7. What characterized the spiritual climate of Israel under the judgeship of Samuel? ([7:4](#))
8. What was Samuel's role when he assembled all the people at Mizpah? ([7:5](#))
9. *For what purpose had the Israelites assembled at Mizpah when they were attacked? ([7:5-6](#))
10. *What were three significant actions taken by the people of Israel in the process of repenting? ([7:6](#))
11. How did the assembled Israelites feel when they heard that the Philistines were attacking? ([7:7](#))
12. What was the people's request of Samuel when they realized they were under attack? ([7:8](#))
13. What was Samuel doing as the army was approaching? ([7:9](#))
14. How does the passage characterize God's response? ([7:9](#))
15. By what miraculous circumstance was the Philistine army defeated? ([7:10](#))
16. What was the significance of the stone Samuel set up between Mizpah and Shen? ([7:12](#))

2. *Adult Questions for LESSONMaker*, (Austin, TX: Wordsearch, 1992), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, Under: "Samuel Subdues the Philistines at Mizpah - 1 Samuel 7:2-17".

17. What was Israel's relationship to the powerful Philistines in the ensuing years? ([7:13-14](#))
18. What was Samuel's title and function throughout his lifetime? ([7:15](#))
19. In what locations did Samuel judge Israel and worship God? ([7:16-17](#))

Get It

20. *Why did Samuel see Israel's repentance and abandonment of idols as a necessary first step to their military deliverance?
21. How might the story have been told to future generations at the Ebenezer stone?
22. Why might some people consider the offering of a sacrifice in the path of the enemy army as foolish?
23. *When the people reacted to the approaching army by asking Samuel to "cry out to the Lord our God for us," how had the stage been set for God's positive response?
24. What are some of the concrete ways we can demonstrate that we are returning to the Lord with all our hearts?

Apply It

25. *What would be a good first step for you as you seek God's response to a request that is especially important to you?
26. How could you, figuratively, set up an "Ebenezer" stone? Create a small reminder of a particular instance of God's unmerited favor so that you remember to praise Him for it?