

Lesson 5 - Ark Returned: 1 Samuel 5-6

Study: Read through the passage. Use the study questions on page 5 to analyze the setting and the characters and record your observations on themes and application.

Discussion:

1. How do we understand the balance between two facts: God is totally self-sufficient and God graciously uses us in His service? Do you think this is a paradox?
2. The Philistines had evidently heard what happened to the Egyptians at the Exodus and it made them fearful. Do you think the church today has lost the fear of God's judgment in favor of preaching the grace to forgive? Is this good or bad?
3. God demonstrated His power to the Philistines through the use of milk cows. Have you seen other instances in your life or Scripture where God used an unlikely person, animal or object to get your attention?
4. Do you think there's a difference between intimacy and familiarity in our dealings with God? Why? Is that a good thing or not?
5. "Perhaps our greatest transgressions are not positive, but passive." Do you agree or not?