



Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this Holy God? 1 Samuel 6:20

## *Bible Study:*



1 Samuel 4-7, 2 Corinthians 5. Contemplate how ALL sinners stand in defiance and opposition to GOD; but those who put their faith in Jesus, become new creations, and God's Will becomes the dominant force in their lives through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

## *The gospel in the story:*



Israelites learned a valuable lesson that because God is a Glorious and Perfect God, His presence is a frightful thing for all who oppose Him. And anyone who has sin in their heart is opposed to God (Matthew 12:30). God sent Samuel to the Israelites to help them repent and turn away from their sin. But He also had a larger plan in mind to send a Savior, Jesus who would defeat Satan sin and death once and for all, and allow anyone who would repent of their sin and put their faith in Him to enter the holy presence of God!

## *Application*

### *Head:* **What did we learn?**

Q: Why did God allow the Philistines to defeat Israel in battle? A: Because Israel had rebelled against God and turned to false gods and idols.

Q: What is the ark? A: The ark of the Covenant, which contained the 10 commandments, and represented God's presence.

Q: How did the Israelites misuse the ark? A: They brought it into battle thinking it would give *them* special power.

Q: How did that work out for Israel? A: They suffered a huge defeat

Q: What happened to the Philistines as a result of stealing the ark? A: They (and their god Dagon) suffered death and disease.

Q: How did the Israelites respond after the return of the ark? A: They repented of their rebellion and got rid of their idols

### *Heart :* **Memory verse**

**Who can stand in the presence of the Lord, this Holy God? 1 Samuel 6:20**

### *Hands:* **How does this affect the way I live?**

Scripture tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom (Ps. 11:10). And we see from this account why that is: God will not tolerate sin in His presence. That's why we thank God daily for His grace in providing His son for our salvation.

### *Home:* **How does this affect my household?**

In this story we saw that the Israelites tried to use God to achieve their purposes, rather than to seek after God and his purposes. Households that are built on the latter will reflect God's glory

### *Heaven:* **How does this help us share our faith?**

The Israelites and the Philistines learned that no one is righteous enough to stand in the presence of the Lord without His mercy. Our witness to friends, neighbors and co-workers is that we are recipients of grace, and that God has promised to extend that grace to anyone who would repent and put their faith in Jesus.

