

The King & The Kingdom
1 Samuel 5-7 Discussion Questions

God's judgment of sin

1. What are some ways we see God's judgment against Israel's sin in chapter 4? What are some ways we see God's judgment of sin against the Philistines in chapter 5? How do we see God's judgment of sin against Israel in chapter 6?
2. What are some lessons we learn about God from this "ark narrative" in chapters 4-6?
3. One lesson we learn is that God takes sin seriously, and especially the sin of his own people. What are some other examples in the Bible where we see the judgment of God against the sin of His people? Why is it important for us to learn this lesson?
4. I mentioned not wanting to step on a scale because I knew I wouldn't like what I saw. Have you ever known you didn't meet up to God's judgments and you intentionally avoided coming under God's judgments because of your sin?

The right response to God's judgment of sin

5. How does Samuel tell Israel to respond in v.3? Explain what each of these elements in v.3 means and involves. What are some of the indications in the text that Israel responded correctly?
6. What are some other examples in the Bible where we see God's desire for His people to give Him their undivided attention and worship? Why does God expect his people to follow him wholeheartedly?
7. How do vv. 15-17 reveal that true repentance is continual and not one-time? Do you tend to think of repentance as a one-time event or as a continual action? Explain.
8. Why should God's people rejoice at the idea of regularly coming under God's judgments and regularly being reminded of God's provision? Do we think like this and practice this?

The results of the right response to God's judgment of sin

9. According to vv.10-14, what are the results of Israel's repentance?
10. We often think, "If I return to the Lord with all my heart, then I will miss something good in life." Why do we think like this? Why is this wrong?
11. God wants us to experience life and joy and peace. He hasn't hidden the way for us to experience these blessings. We don't have to (and can't!) manipulate Him in order to experience these blessings. Why do we often make this more difficult than we should?
12. We see the extent to which God was willing to go to bring us life and joy and peace when we look to Jesus and all He accomplished at the cross. What are some ways these chapters point forward to Christ and His work?