

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

Is God Your Mascot or Monarch?

1 Samuel 4 & 5

Main Thought: In 1 Samuel 4 & 5, we are challenged to ask ourselves the question, "Do I treat God as my mascot or my monarch?"

1. THE _____ UNFOLDS....

- 1) The _____ of Samuel (4:1)
- 2) The _____ (4:1)
- 3) The First _____ and Questioning (4:2-3)
- 4) The _____ brought from Shiloh (4:4-9)
- 5) The Second Defeat and _____ of the Ark (4:10-11)
- 6) The _____ of the Sons of Eli (4:11)
- 7) The Death of _____ and Departure of the Glory (4:12-22)
- 8) The Double Defeat of _____ (5:1-5)
- 9) The Heavy Hand of _____ (5:6-10)
- 10) The Philistines decide to _____ the Ark (5:11-12)

2. DO WE TREAT _____ AS OUR MASCOT OR MONARCH?

- 1) The role of a _____ and our response
- 2) The role of a _____ and our response

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read 1 Samuel 4 & 5 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. How was the decision made for the Israelites to go out and fight against the Philistines? What didn't they do?

8. Who were the Philistines?

9. Why do you think the Lord allowed the Israelites to lose the battle with the Philistines?

10. Why did the Israelites decide to bring the ark of the covenant with them into battle the second time? What's wrong with this thinking?

11. What do the Philistines know about the Lord?

12. Why did the Lord allow the Israelites to lose the second battle? Why did Israel lose so many men the second time?

13. What happened to the ark? Eli's sons?

14. What happened to Eli when he got the news about the battle, his sons, and the ark?

15. What was the experience of the Philistines when the ark of God was brought into their temple and towns? What does that tell you? Why was God so heavy handed with the Philistines?

16. What did the Philistines ultimately decide to do with the ark of God?