

Growth Group Guide for ...

1 Samuel 4-7

*This is a list of questions to help Growth Groups discuss the passage.
Pick and choose the questions as time and situation permit.*

Read 1 Samuel 4-7 before Growth Group.

1. Recap on what has taken place in chapters 1-3.
2. What mention of Samuel is there in chapter 4? Is this significant in light of the events that unfold?
3. Who were the priests accompanying the ark into battle (v4)? What do we know about these guys from last week?
4. What are the Israelites relying on for victory (v3)? Why doesn't their plan work (v6-10)?
5. What is significant about the death of Hophni, Phinehas and Eli and the naming of Eli's grandson (11-21)?
6. What unwanted effects is the ark of the Lord inflicting on the Philistines in chapter 5? Do you notice any irony in the fact that the mere presence of the ark is bringing trouble among the Philistines when the might of the Israelite army couldn't?
7. What do the Philistines realise about the ark that the Israelites have not comprehended?
8. Read through chapter 6. Discuss the profound conclusions that the Philistines come to about the ark and the Lord to whom it belongs? (Hint: the place of the ark; need of sacrifice; the power of the God of the ark).
9. What are the Israelites starting to learn (v19-21)?
10. There is a long time between 1 Samuel 4:1 and 1 Samuel 7:3 where we 'hear' Samuel speak, more than 20 years. What is Samuel calling the people to (7:3)? What is their response?
11. How does the plight of Israel change following their repentance at Mizpah (v6-17)? Who is leading them? Who is fighting for them?