

Raiders of the Lost Ark
1 Samuel 5:1-7:2
August 30, 2020

I. The Response to God from a Lost World (5:1-12)

- A. God does not need the _____ of His people to overcome a lost world.

- B. The lost world would rather _____ than be in the presence of a holy God (Isaiah 44:9-20).

- C. Hatred for _____ does not necessarily imply hatred for sin.

II. The Response to God from a Saved People (6:1-7:2)

- A. Knowing God's Word is a _____ or _____ matter.

- B. Non-Christians and un-_____ Christians look remarkably similar.
 - 1. Discipleship - the process of someone imitating Christ as they observe others imitating Him.

- C. Similar in that:
 - 1. They both _____.
 - 2. They both _____.
 - 3. They both _____.

- D. Different in that:
 - 1. A non-Christian keeps God at a distance and is fine with it. An un-discipled Christian keeps God at a distance and is _____.
 - 2. A non-Christian keeps God at a distance and remains at the gates of hell. An un-discipled Christian keeps God at a distance and remains _____

Group Discussion

1. What are your initial takeaways from 1 Samuel 5:1-7:2?
2. The whole reason the ark of God is in the temple of Dagon is because God's people had come under judgment for treating holy things with contempt. However, does the failure of God's people seem to diminish God's glory here in chapter 5?
3. Is it really possible for people to believe the work of God but, instead of turning to Him in repentance and faith, do everything in their power to get rid of it (5:11, 6:20)? Why? Is it just non-Christians that are capable of such stubborn rebellion? Why?
4. Was God overreacting to the deeds of the people of Beth-Shemesh (6:19)? Why would God kill His own people for this?
5. What is discipleship and what does it have to do with drawing near to God?
6. Compare and contrast non-Christians with un-discipled Christians. What are the similarities? What are the differences?
7. Review the church prayer guide on the next page, exchange prayer requests, and close in prayer as a group.

Recommended Reading for Further Study:

Amazing Unbelief: Exodus 12:29-32, Isaiah 7:10-13, Mark 5:14-17, 6:5-6

Church Bible Reading Plan

This Week: Read 1 Samuel 23-26

September: Memorize 1 Samuel 17:45-47

Join us for Prayer: Tuesday Evenings at 7:00PM — Dial 701-802-5374 and at the prompt enter 5160582#

Hebrews 4:16

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Our Vision: To create a culture of discipleship that leads to worship and compels us to be on mission.

- PRAY that our love for our neighbors will cause us to reach out to them.
- PRAY that we would be faithful in all our individual areas of ministry.
- PRAY that God will draw many to Himself in this difficult time.
- PRAY for YOUR ONE to be saved.
- PRAY for the AWANA ministry. It starts on this Wednesday evening (in person) at 6:00PM at the church.
- PRAY for Nathan and Becky F. as they prepare to return to Indonesia.
- PRAY for the people of Puluk in Indonesia to have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel.
- PRAY for Dr. John and Karen T. and Dr. Doug and Cheryl D. to be able to return to the mission-field soon.

Our Mission: To Care as Jesus CARES:

- PRAY for us as we begin to re-open our church doors to more people. Pray for wisdom and safety as more people come back to church.
- PRAY that we will love and encourage each other by reaching out to our membership. Go through the church directory and try to connect with someone *each day*.
- PRAY that God will continue to use the FOOD BOX MINISTRY to bring people to Himself and that we would keep the food pantry well stocked.
- PRAY for the hospital workers, first responders and police officers to be drawn to God and to be filled with His strength, love, and ability.
- PRAY for all of our schools/teachers/administrators/ workers in this new school year with difficulties never before encountered.
- PRAY for us all to be a source of light in the darkness of racial prejudice.
- PRAY that we will each be faithful to give financially to Apollo Baptist Church so that we can have the funds to continuing ministering.

Our Church Family:

- PRAY for Pastor Gary and our other pastors (Pastor Jim, Pastor Reginald, Pastor Brian) as they seek God's way to effectively lead our church.
- PRAY for us as a church family to grow in our devotion and our discipleship.
- PRAY for our deacons to be able to keep up with their families and contacts effectively.
- PRAY for our Sunday School leaders to find ways to keep in touch with their class/department.
- PRAY for the office staff in the challenges they face as they work from home.

Pray For Our Church Family Needs:

- ASU West College Ministry: Please pray for the student leaders and others that Christ will be magnified despite the COVID restrictions.
 - Sept. 3 First Christian Challenge Meeting
- Jayla Hope S. passed away shortly after she was born on Wednesday, August 19. Please be in prayer for parents James and Julena and the grandparents as they grieve.
- Six-year-old Jane S. passed away after a long battle with heart issues. Please pray for parents Larry and Kasie S. and grandparents Woody and Barbara S., but also for her siblings, Olivia, McKinsey, and Isaac.
- Michelle L. is struggling with severe migraines.
- Mary R.s' kidney function is hovering just above the numbers when dialysis is needed. Please pray for her kidneys to function better.
- Brenda R. continues to experience bone pain from cancer. The doctors are in the process of coordinating a bone marrow transplant.
- Wanda and Tom H.'s son, Derek, was diagnosed with stage 2 colon cancer. Pray for the treatments to work well.
- Mary C., daughter of Jeanette C., is being treated for stage 3 breast cancer. Pray for healing and for their hearts to turn to Christ.
- Mark S., Sally D.'s brother-in-law has been in the hospital with pneumonia and a case of shingles. Mark had a successful double-lung transplant a few years ago.
- Ketty B.'s friend is having domestic issues and needs God's wise intervention
- Julia B.'s family needs reconciliation among some of the family members.
- Kevin M. has a debilitating, herniated disk in his neck and requires surgery. If he does not get surgery soon and recover quickly, he may not be able to fulfill his teaching contract with the university. His family would be in a very difficult spot. Please pray for healing.
- Marge D. and Tom M. have had very successful surgeries. Please pray for successful rehabilitation.
- A memorial service for Mary S. will be Saturday, September 5 at 11:00AM in the worship center. Pray for her son Jeremy S. as he grieves the loss of his mom.

Others that you aware of