

GOD IS NOT A GOOD LUCK CHARM

(1 Samuel 4:1-11)

1. _____ happen, and we do not always _____. (1 Corinthians 9:24; Ecclesiastes 4:9-10; Galatians 6:9; John 16:33)
2. Asking a question is good, but make sure you _____ out the _____. (Psalm 27:14, 37:4; Jeremiah 29:12; Isaiah 40:31; Matthew 7:7-8; Hebrews 11:6; Lamentations 3:25; Proverbs 3:5-6)
3. We do not simply force _____ into our situations and expect _____ to work the way we want. (Job 36:23, 41:11; Romans 11:34-35; John 15:5; Matthew 6:33)
4. Just because there is _____ and something looks and sounds good - doesn't mean it is _____. (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:10-11; Matthew 7:21, 15:8-9; Isaiah 29:13; 1 Kings 19:11-12; Genesis 3:6-7)
5. When we fail to surrender fully to the Lord, the _____ battle can be worse than the _____. (1 Corinthians 10:11-12; Proverbs 9:9, 11:2, 26:11-12; Hebrews 12:10-11; Philippians 3:13)
6. The _____ of _____ always comes to pass. (Isaiah 46:9-11, 55:11; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16; Joshua 21:45; Ezekiel 12:25; Matthew 24:35)



Taking it further to help you **THRIVE...**

THRIVE Groups are where life and growth take place.

We don't want to just say "See you next week" as we leave each Sunday - we want to connect!

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1. Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. On Sunday John described a number of different ways people tend to view God: firefighter, table waiter, genie in a bottle, angry judge, slave driver, distant observer - the list could continue. When have you viewed God in each of these ways? While we all do this from time to time, why are none of these ultimately the right way to view God? How *should* we view Him?
3. The Israelite elders questioned why they had lost the battle (verse 3), but it doesn't seem they wanted a response. Instead of allowing God to speak an answer or reiterate His will, they concocted their own plan. We all *know* that prayer changes things, but we can be so quick to take matters into our own hands instead of seeking God. Why do we do this? What can we do to change the way we respond in these types of situations?
4. Verse 5 says, "*When the ark of the covenant of the Lord came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the earth shook.*" This must have been a tremendously moving occasion, but what was the problem with the shouting/hype? In what ways today do we hear exuberant shouting and witness activity that might *appear* good - but isn't? Why, in these cases, is this not a good thing?
5. In the first battle, Israel lost 4,000 soldiers (verse 2). Failing to acknowledge their error, fought again and lost 30,000 (verse 10). It has been said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." In what recent endeavor have you tried and tried again the same thing with no different outcome? (Not that we are calling you insane or anything :) What might be a different approach you can take?
6. What was the significance of the writer stating that Hophni and Phinehas died (verse 11)? What is the application of this piece of information for us today?

