

**Series:** Not By Might, a study in 1 Samuel

**Sermon:** The Journey of Trust

**Primary Text:** 1 Samuel 4-7

**Discussion guide:**

- What are some good things that we can come to depend on more than God?
- What are some religious things that can come to matter more to us than God? explain?
- Read 1 Samuel 4:1-11.
  - Why did the Israelites think the ark would help them?
  - What warning do we see in verse 3b?
  - Why do you think they thought of the ark before their own behavior?
  - Why do you think they lost?
- Read the rest of the chapter.
  - Notice their strong reaction to the news -
    - Why did Eli react so strongly to the ark's capture rather than his son's death?
    - Why did his daughter-in-law name her son "Ichabod"?
    - This tells you that they believed God had left them - why did they need to focus on the fact that they had left God?
      - How is this a natural result of believing more in a thing of God over God Himself?
- Read chapters 5-6.
  - What jumps out at you?
  - Why does Dagon fall before the ark?
    - How does this relate to today?
- Read chapter 7.
  - Samuel talks about returning to the Lord with "all your heart".
    - What does that mean?
  - Samuel says in order to do this the Israelites need to "put away" their false gods.
    - What are some of our false gods and how do we put them away?
    - How do we deal with the things that we have elevated too high that we can't get rid of? Like our children, the Bible or other virtuous things?
  - Samuel says to "direct your hearts to God and serve only Him."
    - What does this mean?
    - Why is it important to repent every time?