

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of February 11, 2018

**This Week's Focus:** The glory of God which saves us from our superstitious relics, rituals, and idols has come to us in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

**This Week's Text:** 1 Samuel 4-5

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:14**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- What can we learn from the elders' response to Israel's first defeat by the Philistines?
- What is the "Ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim," and what was its purpose? Reference Exodus 25:10-22. Where did the ark typically reside? Reference Exodus 25:34. What significance did the atonement cover or "mercy seat" play in Israel's sacrificial system prescribed by God? Reference Leviticus 16:15-16.
- Why did the people of Israel believe the ark would save them from their enemies? Reference Numbers 10:33-34; Joshua 3:5-6, 14-15; Joshua 6. What was the real sin behind Israel's replacing God with the ark?
- Discuss the difference between seeing God as useful and seeing him as beautiful. Do you seek to know God and his will by studying his Word, seeking wise Christian council, and prayer? Or do you rely on your own cleverly devised plans and expect God to bless them?
- What are some superstitious rituals or relics (religious or otherwise) that we use today to circumvent God's sovereignty or to coerce God into giving us what we want? Discuss how the gospel frees us from idolatry and functional paganism.
- What was God teaching Israel by allowing them to be defeated by the Philistines? Discuss how God allowed Israel's defeat and the capture of the ark to discipline his people Israel. Have you experienced the gracious and loving discipline of God which is meant to bring you to repentance?

- What did God demonstrate to the Philistines by decapitating their god Dagon and afflicting them with painful tumors? Reference Acts 17:24-25.
- What caused Eli to fall to his death and prompted his daughter-in-law to name her son Ichabod? Discuss how Jesus Christ is the perfectly revealed glory of God who our hearts were made to worship. Reference John 1:14.