

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 18, 2018

This Week's Focus: Only those who take protection and shelter under the blood of Jesus Christ can stand in the presence of a holy God.

This Week's Text: 1 Samuel 6-7

"Repentance is an inward matter, which has its seat in the heart and soul, but afterwards yields its fruits in a change of life." **John Calvin**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What has the Holy Spirit impressed on your heart and mind from this week's sermon/text?
- How and why had God's heavy hand fallen on the Philistines? How did they respond to God's judgement? Reference 1 Samuel 6:1-5. How do we know that their guilt didn't lead them to true repentance? Reference Leviticus 17:11, 5:15.
- What is the bloodiness of the Old Testament sacrificial system meant to teach us about ourselves, sin, and the nature of God?
- What is repentance, and how is it more than (but never less than) the feeling of guilt and the confession of sin? Reference 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10. What are some ways we try to avoid the feelings of emptiness and guilt over sin? When you feel convicted by sin, do you seek God through his gift of repentance or do you look for alternatives?
- Discuss how repentance and faith are not just for the unbeliever but are also the lifelong pursuits of all those who have trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- What test did the Philistines devise to determine the cause of their suffering? How do the cows' actions reveal God's sovereignty as well as his grace toward his enemies?
- Read 1 Samuel 6:13-15. How did Israel initially respond to the ark's return? Has there been a time in your life when you had to lay aside important matters for the spiritually critical?
- How was Samuel used by God to bring Israel to repentance? Talk specifically about his role as prophet, priest, and judge. What was the evidence of Israel's repentance?
- How is Jesus the better and greater Samuel? Discuss how the gospel of Jesus Christ leads us to repentance, faith, and relationship with God – something no effort of our own can accomplish.