1 Samuel Lesson 3 (2020)

**THE LORD IS THE HOLY GOD**

1 Samuel 4:1b-7:1

Key Verse: 6:20a

**Open it:**

1. Why do you think human beings so commonly ask, “Why is this happening to me?”

**Explore it:**

1. Read 4:1-4. Who were the Philistines (Ge 10:14; Jos 13:2-3; Jdg. 3:1-4; 1 Sa 4:9) What happened when the Israelites went out to fight them? (1b-2) How did the Israelites interpret their defeat, and what did they do? (3-4)
2. How often is the expression “the ark of the Lord’s covenant” repeated? (3-5) What did this mean? (Ex 25:21-22; 24:7-8) What was wrong with their faith? (Mk 7:6) When the ark came into the Israelite camp, how did the people respond?
3. Read verses 6-11. How did the Philistines react (6-9) How did they view God of Israel? (8) What was the result of the battle? (10-11) What is the meaning of the ark being captured?
4. Read verses 12-22. What news was brought to Eli? (12-17) What happened to him? (18; 2:30-34) To his daughter-in-law? (19-20) What did she name the boy and why? (21-22) What can we learn about God from her remark? (cf. 15:29)
5. Where did the Philistines take the ark? (5:1-2) Why? (2 Ki 18:33-35; Isa 37:11-12) What happened to Dagon? (5:3-4) What did God reveal about himself? (Isa 44:17-20; 45:6) How did they respond? (5:5) Where did the ark of God go and what happened in each place? (5:6, 9, 11b-12) What was God trying to teach? (5:12b; Ex 14:4b)
6. How did the Philistines plan to send the ark back? (6:1-2) What did the model of tumors and rats mean? (6:5,8) How had their attitude toward God changed? What were they trying to know? (6:9) How did the two cows go against their instinct? (6:10-12) What can we learn from them? What did their return reveal about God?
7. When the ark of God returned, what did the people of Beth Shemesh do? (6:13-15) What was the historical lesson of this event? (6:16-18) Why did God strike down some od th3m? (6:19)
8. Read 6:20. What did they lean about God? (Isa 6:3) How had God revealed his holiness among the Philistines as well as the Israelites? What attitude must we have in approaching Go din our pluralistic culture? (Heb 12:28b-29; Jn 4:23-24) What did they do? (6:21-7:1)

**Apply it:**

1. In what concrete way can you model the fear of the Lord for your friends or children?