

THE PLAN

14. The Lost Ark
(1 Samuel 1-7)
December 12, 2021

Story Coordinates (1 Samuel 4:1-1)

People (Who is the story about?)

Place (Where is their home?)

Presence (How can they meet with God?)

Purpose (What did God tell them to do?)

The Story (1 Samuel 4-7)

- The Israelites assumed they were on the _____ and tried to use the Ark to _____ a victory. (4:3-4)
- The Israelites lost the battle, the _____, and the _____ of God. (4:10-11)
- God _____ to force the Philistines to _____ the Ark. (5:11)

- God did not restore the Ark to the _____ --he left it in _____ with the _____. (6:19-7:2)
- Losing the _____ of God finally drove the Israelites to true _____. (7:2-4)
- When Israel turned _____ God, he _____ them from the Philistines.

The Morals

- The success of God's people comes from _____, not effort or tactics.
- When we try to _____ God's plan, our relationship with him always _____.
- When we are _____ to God, he is _____ to fight for us (according to _____).

Spoiler Alert

- The birth of Jesus means that the _____ of God is available to us _____. (Matthew 1:22-23)

Small Group Questions

1. Getting Started:

- What did you find most interesting about the sermon this week? The most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
- Have you ever done something you were sure was going to work—like taking the Ark into battle—only to have it fail spectacularly?

2. Into the Bible (Psalm 33)

- V. 1-3: What is the attitude of this Psalm?
- V. 4-15: What reasons does the Psalmist give for why God is worthy of our trust?
- V. 16-18. What are the people of Israel tempted to trust instead of God? What should they be focused on instead?

- V. 20-22: How do the people of God choose to live as a result of everything the Psalmist has said?

3. Going Deeper

- Have you ever had a time when you tried to force something to happen that wasn't part of God's plan?
- There are times when we need to buckle down and work harder. How can we discern those from the times we need to stop and change directions?
- What does it actually look like to be faithful to God? How does it change the way we make our decisions?

4. Prayer

- Pray for each other and the challenges you face—ask for God's wisdom to know when its time to change directions.