

Sermon Application Study

June 15, 2025

Target Passage → 1 Samuel 6:1-21

1. Why did the Philistines decide to return the Ark in such a seemingly careless manner, rather than doing everything they could to secure its safe return to the Israelites?
2. This passage contains some difficult realities about how God dealt with his own people. How would you respond to someone who says *"The 'God' of the Old Testament is different to the 'God' of the New Testament"*?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's glory and holiness and how we should approach Him in worship today? Discuss the tension between having a healthy fear and reverence for God vs boldly coming into his presence knowing that we are loved and accepted in Christ. Is it possible to become too casual?
4. Why did the people of Beth-shemesh send the Ark away, instead of seeking repentance from God? What does their response tell us about how people often deal with conviction of sin?

Bridge Passages (for further study) → Revelation 6:16-17 and Revelation 7

For Me →

1. What are some ways in which you could prepare ahead of time to be aware of and engage with the presence and holiness of God in our Sunday worship services?
2. How might spiritual familiarity cause you to take God's presence for granted?

PRAYER FOCUS

Ask for a fresh understanding and revelation of God's glory and holiness. Ask for God to show you ways in which you approach him too casually.

For the Mission →

Are you ready to engage with non-Christians who take issue with the way in which God dealt with people in the Old Testament? How can you prepare to respond to tough questions and show people how God responds to us differently today because of Christ?