

Cole Community Church Growth Groups
Study Questions for 1 Samuel 5:1-12
Week of October 9-15, 2011

Fallen Gods & Fallen People

Introduction: The defeat at the lower plains of Aphek and Ebenezer was the darkest day of Israel's history to that point. The capture of the Ark of the Covenant symbolized the loss of God's presence and power, a fact that caused Eli to faint, resulting in his death. The capture of the ark was as much a spiritual defeat for Israel as it was a political and military loss. This should have been a wake-up call to the nation, which had languished for years in spiritual ambivalence, moral anarchy and civil chaos.

Read verses 1 & 2.

1. What is the significance of the Philistines taking the Ark to Ashdod and placing it in the temple of Dagon?

Read verses 3, 4, and 5.

2. What happened in these verses? Talk in your group about the significance of what happened.
3. Make application of verse 3, 4 and 5 to us today and our daily walk.
4. Talk about idols in your group and how they can affect us today. (Ps 42:2, 1Thess 1:9, 1 Timothy 2:5).

Read verses 6 – 12.

5. What is happening to the people of Philistine in these verses?
6. What are the messages from these passages (see John 8:24)?

Application:

What is the lesson of the Ark?

Talk in your group how that applies to our lives today plus how it applies in our country and economy. From this study, how are we to respond to all this turmoil we see today?