Community Group Study: The Problem of Holiness
1 Samuel 5:1-7:17 | week of October 7

GETTING STARTED

- Look back upon your life. What one or two moments/events/situations are you most thankful for? Why?

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

<u>Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12.</u>

- Make a list of the various issues and problems the Philistines encounter when the Ark of the Covenant comes into their country.

- What is God's role in those various issues and problems?

<u>Read 1 Samuel 6:1-7:2.</u>

- What seems to be the point of the incident with the two milk cows (6:1-12)? What are the Philistines trying to accomplish?

- How do the Israelites' issues and problems when the Ark comes to Beth-shemesh differ from the Philistines' issues in chapter 5? How are they similar?

- What point is this similarity intended to drive home for the readers of this story? (See 6:19-20 for help.)

Read 1 Samuel 7:3-17.

- How is the return of Samuel to the story linked to the repentance and worship Israel demonstrates in 7:4-11?

- What characteristics of genuine repentance do you see from Israel in this story?

- Reflect on your past week. Have you been genuinely repenting of sin? In what ways? In what ways do you need to walk in genuine repentance?

- Ebenezer (7:12) is a helpful reminder of the value of recalling God's past grace to us. As a group, make a list of God's past actions of grace and kindness to you.

- In what present situation in your life do you need to look back to God's past grace, to the cross - your Ebenezer, for fuel to trust God's future grace?

NEXT STEPS

- Memorize Romans 8:32.