November 15, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
When we feel entitled to understand God's ways, we should try to recommit ourselves to humility.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK:
If you know that God's hand is in everything, you can leave everything in God's hand.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
"For as the heavens are higher that the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

(Isaiah 55:9 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", May 29, 2015)

Fall Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

NEXT WEEK

Unit 3: From Judges to Kings

David is Anointed King

1 Samuel 16:4-13

Israel Recommits to God
1 Samuel 7:3-11, 15-17

Lesson Background and Introduction

Previous lessons describe how the Philistines took the Ark of the Covenant from the Israelite settlement at Ebenezer and moved it to the temple of Dagon in the city of Ashdod (1 Samuel 4:11; 5:2). However, to put it mildly, things did not go well for the people of Ashdod after the ark's arrival (see 5:3-6)! The inhabitants of Gath fared no better when the ark was transferred to their city, about twelve miles east of Ashdod (5:7-8). Neither did the citizens of Ekron, about eleven miles due north of Gath (5:8-12).

These three relocations occurred over a period of seven months. It took that long before the Philistines realized that the ark was far from being a good-luck charm (see 1 Samuel 6:1-2). Therefore, with great fear and trepidation, the Philistines sent the ark to the Israelite settlement at Beth Shemesh, about eight miles due east of Ekron (6:3-18).

God quickly made his displeasure known, however, as seventy Israelites looked into the ark and died (1 Samuel 6:19-20). The ark was to contain the tablets of the Law and may have also housed other items (see Exodus 40:20; Deuteronomy 10:5; compare Hebrews 9:4). But what they saw wasn't the point. Rather, the offense was their imposition on God's holiness. God had assigned holiness to the ark when he specified its location to be in the "Most Holy Place." The holy place had highly restrictive entrance requirements (Leviticus 16:1-2; Hebrews 9:1-5). In contrast, the residents of the town treated the ark like a tourist attraction.

Therefore, residents of Beth Shemesh asked the people of Kiriath Jearim, about eight miles away, to accept the ark. The ark remained at Kiriath Jearim (approximately seven miles west of Jerusalem) for twenty years (1 Samuel 7:2a). During this time, the Israelites repented, turning their hearts back to the Lord (7:2b).

Key Verse: 1 Sam 7:15
And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

RECOMMITTED THROUGH REPENTANCE (1 SAM 7:3-4)

Repentance because of conviction (3)

Conviction that "cuts to the heart" by God's Word (Acts 2:37)
Conviction is when the "secrets of our hearts" are totally open to God (1 Cor. 14:24-25)
Conviction is when the Holy Spirit convinces of sin (John 16:6-8)
Conviction is something we don't want to ignore (Heb 2:2-4)
Conviction that brings us to our knees (Acts 16:29-30)

Repentance through actions (4)

Repentance is a "changing of one's mind" (Matt 21:28-29)
Repentance results in believing in Jesus Christ (Mark 1:15)
Repentance results in forgiveness (Acts 2:28)
Repentance results in a path to life (Acts 11:18)
Repentance results in having a godly sorrow (2 Cor 7:10-11)

RECOMMITTED THROUGH PRAYER (1 SAM 7:5-9)

Prayer in unity (5-6)

Unity in prayer through the Holy Spirit (Rom 15:5-6)
Unity in prayer through being in agreement (1 Cor 1:10)
Unity in prayer through being firm in one spirit (Phil 1:27)
Unity in prayer through being like-mindedness (Phil 2:2)

Prayer during opposition (7-8)

Opposition because of hatred of Christianity (Matt 10:22)
Opposition because of being hated for Jesus' sake (Luke 6:22)
Opposition because of rejection of God (1Thes 4:8)
Opposition that should be instructed to lead to repentance (2 Tim 2:25)

Prayer along with offering of sacrifices (9)

Sacrificial prayer and offerings starts with offering self to God (Rom 12:1)
Sacrificial prayer and offerings that are steadfast in commitment (Acts 21:12-14)
Sacrificial prayer and offerings that reaps rewards (Mark 10:29-31)
Sacrificial prayer and offerings that are according to God's will (2 Cor 8:3-5)

RECOMMITTED RESULTS IN DEFEAT OF ENEMIES (1 SAM 7:10-11, 15-17)

Defeat through God's intervention (10-11)

God intervenes to show that we should not fear enemies (Josh 10:8-10)
God intervenes because He goes with those who belong to Him (Deut 20:4)
God intervenes because the victory rests with God (Prov 21:31)
God intervenes through Jesus (1 Cor 15:57)
God intervenes so that we may overcome the world (1 John 5:4)

Defeat through the leadership of Samuel (15-17)

Leadership that focuses on God's Word in order not to error (Matt 22:29)
Leadership that is entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7)
Leadership that is blameless so as to encourage godliness (1 Thess 2:10-12)
Leadership that is faithful because of being given a trust (1 Cor 4:2)
Leadership that has integrity (Titus 2:7-8)