

# Westwood Baptist Church



*Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for March 12, 2023

## Sermon Notes

### **Lessons From the Ark: There is None Like the Lord**

1 Samuel 4

A passage like 1 Samuel 4 often receives a response like this: “That’s an interesting story”, or “that’s a strange story”, or maybe “that’s a cool story...but what has it got to do with me, how is that chapter relevant to my life or my family or my situation?” Yet the Bible answers by saying that this chapter, and all of Scripture, was “written down for our instruction” (1 Corinthians 10:11).

The next four chapters of 1 Samuel have been called the Ark Narrative. This narrative includes two major battles between Israel and the Philistines (chpts 4 & 7) and two extraordinary demonstrations of God’s power (chpts 5 & 6). Front and center in all these chapters is that gold covered box, the Ark of the Covenant. But the Ark is not the point! The Philistines didn’t understand this, neither did the Israelites. This passage will instruct us that God cannot be put in a box. God will not be domesticated or used by us. He cannot be captured, and his glory will not be taken or diminished.

#### **God Will Not Be Domesticated or Used By Us.**

*And when the people came to the camp, the elders of Israel said,  
“Why has the LORD defeated us today before the Philistines?  
Let us bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD here from Shiloh,  
that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies.” 1 Samuel 4:3*

#### **God Will Not Be Captured Nor His Glory Robbed By Us.**

*He who brought the news answered and said, “Israel has fled before the Philistines,  
and there has also been a great defeat among the people. Your two sons also,  
Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God has been captured.” 1 Samuel 4:17*

#### **“Ichabod” Was the Reality For Israel, ‘Immanuel’ Is the Reality For Us.**

*And she named the child Ichabod, saying,  
“The glory has departed from Israel!” because the ark of God had been captured  
and because of her father-in-law and her husband. 1 Samuel 4:21*

*She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”*

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:  
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”  
(which means, God with us). Matthew 1:21–23*

## Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*  
*teaching* and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."  
- Colossians 3:16a

### Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

### Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

### Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

#### Westwood Staff

**Gerald Hodges:** Lead Pastor

**Jonathan Taylor:** Associate Pastor

**Jason Engle:** Pastor of Students  
& Discipleship

**Deborah Rudd:** Children's Ministry  
Coordinator

**Yvonne Hager:** Executive Assistant

#### Contact Us

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Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:00pm

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#### MARCH

**\*\*15 Member's Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.\*\***

19 Taco & Tamale Fundraiser @ 12:00 p.m.

22 Evangelism Class-Session 4 @ 6:30 p.m.

23 Blood Drive (FLC) 10:30a.m.-3:00p.m.

25 Women's Ministry Event @ 10:00 a.m.

31 Mom 2 Mom Spring Consignment Sale

#### APRIL

1 Mom 2 Mom Spring Consignment Sale

6 Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00 p.m.

9 Easter Sunrise Service @ Hyco @ 6:30 a.m.

9 Easter Fellowship Breakfast @ 9:00 a.m.

9 Easter Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.