

Spiritual Formations Questions for Small Groups and Families

“The Ark” (1 Samuel 4-7)

A God, or a God in a Box?

- 1) What do you make of the criticism by some that religious people worship a figment of their imagination? Is there any validity to that claim?
- 2) Why do you think Israel reverted to manipulation instead of seeking God? Does that dynamic ever play out in your life, or in the life of the church?
- 3) What is the attraction of a God-in-a-box? What is it about a God who is outside of us (untamed, wild and free) that we are trying to avoid?
- 4) Which do you tend to pray more often: “not my will, but yours be done” or “God, please bless my will”? What’s the difference between the two prayers, and what are their implications?
- 5) Do you ever try to manipulate or control God by putting Him in your debt? How so? How can you remind yourself daily that you are in His debt?
- 6) Do you tend to treat God as a means to an end (help me get what I want) or an end in Himself (He is beautiful and true and good, and everything I need)?
- 7) What does the story of the Ark (1 Samuel 4-7) have to say to you personally about worshipping the correct God correctly?