

## LEADER TIPS

### Sermon Scripture References

Psalms 115:4-8; Acts 17:25-26; Deut. 28:27; Joshua 5:13-15; Numbers 4:4-5, 19; Ezekiel 33:11; Matthew 17:5; John 14:6; Hebrews 10:19-22; Hebrews 4:16

### Sermon Description

God is not common; therefore, we must not approach Him in common ways related to moral performances, personal preferences, or cultural assumptions. Instead, we must listen to how God instructs us to come and stand in His holy presence. He told Moses and Joshua to remove the sandals from their feet because He wanted them with Him. He told the people of Israel how to offer sacrifices and treat the Ark of the Covenant because He wanted to be with them. The gospel declares that He wants sinners like us with Him too. The heavenly Father said of Jesus, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." And Jesus said to us, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Sinners like us cannot approach our uncommon God in whatever ways we prefer but only in the Way He provides. In Christ, God has provided the way for us to enter and enjoy being in His presence.

In 1 Samuel 5:1-7:1, we find a story that warns us against approaching our uncommon God in common ways. Both the Philistines and the people of Israel failed in this area. They ignored God's supremacy over all and experienced the severity of His judgement. The tension of the narrative builds to a climax acknowledging the sacredness of God and asking the most important question a person can ask: "Who is able to stand in the presence of the Lord this holy God?"

### Text Insights

-No human actions in this passage are done in compliance with God's Word.  
 -Beth-Shemesh was a Levitical city set aside for the clan of Kohath, the family line charged with caring for the Ark according to God's careful and clear instructions. It is also the home of Aaron's descendants, the original line of Israel's high priests.

## DISCUSSION PRIMER

Are you more inclined to approach God in the common ways related to your moral performance, personal preferences, or cultural assumptions? Why is it dangerous to approach our uncommon God in a common way?

## SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN MESS MEETS MERCY: THE GOSPEL OF 1 SAMUEL  
 "OUR UNCOMMON GOD": 1 SAMUEL 5:1-7:1

**Big Idea:** God is not common; therefore, we must not approach Him in whatever ways we prefer but only in the Way He provides.

### Sermon Outline

- The Supremacy of God (5:1-5)
  - Is the Lord just another part of your personal pantheon?
  - God respects no rivals.
  - God needs no support.
- The Severity of God (5:6-6:12)
  - God takes no sides.
  - God takes no chances.
- The Sacredness of God (6:13-7:1)
  - God is not common.
  - God is not unapproachable.

## INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- ▶ How can we discern if we are treating the Lord as just another part of our personal pantheon?
- ▶ What rivals the supremacy of God in your life? How might such idols fall?
- ▶ What does it mean that "worship is formative"? If worship is formative, how might we worship Christ to be conformed into His image?
- ▶ How can we strike a balance between two facts: God needs no support yet He graciously uses us in His service?
- ▶ What is the difference between approaching God commonly and approaching God boldly as we are encouraged to do in Hebrews 4:16?
- ▶ You can stand before the glory of God because of the cross of Christ. How is your heart responding to that reality? How does this truth inspire you to worship?

## REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read [1 Samuel 5:1-7:1](#) and explore together what the passages reveal about:

- |                                       |                               |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ?    |
| 2) The fallen human condition?        | 5) Our obedience to Christ?   |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ?        | 6) Our relationship to others |

## APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| • a command to obey?  | • a beauty to behold?  | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe?  | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell?     |