

**A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study**  
**Date: March 9, 2022**  
**1 Samuel 4**

1. What happened in last week's Bible Study? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does 4:1 tell us has been happening since? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What is happening now, in 4:1-3?
  - a. The Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines.
  - b. Israel was defeated and about four thousand of them were killed.
  - c. The soldiers wanted to know why they were defeated.
  - d. They decided that they needed the ark of the Lord's covenant on the battlefield with them. The ark represented God's presence, so really they were recognizing the need for the presence of God with them.
4. Do you recognize the need for the presence of God in your situation? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened when the Israelites brought the ark down from Shiloh, according to 4:4-11?
  - a. They won the next battle and everything was fine...happily ever after, the end.
  - b. The Israelites raised such a great shout that the ground shook and the Philistines were afraid. They believed "a god" had come into the camp.
  - c. The Philistines still won the battle, killed thirty thousand Israelite foot soldiers, captured the ark...and Eli's two sons died.
6. Wait, what happened? Why didn't the presence of God solve the problem?
  - a. I guess God just didn't care about his people.
  - b. Perhaps there was a problem...they brought items that represented God's presence, but the people who brought them had nothing to do with God...they put themselves first above the things God cared about and didn't trust in Him...
  - c. God doesn't come on command into situations that we have already pushed him out of.
  - d. We can control whether an item comes to the battlefield but bringing the presence of God is a different thing. We can't treat the things of God like a good luck charm and assume God has to act on our behalf when the charm is present.
  - e. God was more concerned about his people being in right relationship with him than the battle. Unfortunately, his people were more concerned about the battle than being right with Him.
7. What happened when the Benjamite brought the news to Eli? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Had the glory of God really departed from Israel, like Eli's daughter-in-law stated when she named her son Ichabod? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Explain. \_\_\_\_\_