



***Series: 1 Samuel***  
***Week 4: Presumption is a dangerous thing***

## **Questions**

Ice-breaker question (to get people talking): Have you ever planned something and then asked God to bless it? What was the result? Did it go as you had hoped? If not, why do you think?

- 1) **Read 1 Samuel 4:1-22.**
- 2) The Elders of Israel presumed God's presence would go with them in their battle. In effect, they were being incredibly presumptuous with the presence of God that rested with the Ark of the Covenant.  
Do you think it is possible to manipulate God?  
**Read John 5:19-24.**  
Not even Jesus is allowed to presume anything. He can only do what he sees the Father doing.
- 3) This passage shows three things that we can learn. The first is *presumption leads to complacency*. The leaders put all their confidence in their ability to bring the Ark. What happens when we presume the presence of God or the blessing of God on something?
- 4) *Complacency leads to Death:* this is the second lesson to learn from this story. Do you agree with this statement, "When the church becomes complacent about God's mission, it dies."?  
If not, why not?  
If you do agree, why?  
Have you ever noticed a tendency in your own life to be complacent about God's mission to the world? If so, what?
- 5) The final lesson is this: *God is in control.* The entire story has been written to show that God is working his purposes out, even through people with free will! It is not that he has manipulated them (as they tried to do with him!), rather it is that he is bringing his word to fruition. Has God ever told you anything and did it come to pass? Are there times when you think God is not in control and so take matters into your own hands? What do you think causes you to believe that God is not in control?
- 6) **Read John 15:1-17.**  
Jesus gives us a principle to counter presumption and complacency: it is the principle of abiding. As you look through the passage, can you spot some key things which describe how to abide in him? Take some time to think about ways in which you can encourage each other in this.