



Series: 1 Samuel
Week 5: God's Glory Has Not Departed

Notes for Group Leader: The sermon is now uploaded onto the church website. If you miss a Sunday and need to "catch-up", please have a listen at westendbaptist.org.uk/?page_id=435.

Questions

Ice-breaker question (to get people talking): Have you ever been in a situation where you felt God's presence had completely deserted you? Do you think he actually left?

1) **Read 1 Samuel 5:1-12.**

What stands out for you in this passage? What don't you fully understand?

- 2) At the end of chapter 4, Ihabod's mother declares that the glory of God has left Israel. Some people think that because of the evil in the world and, to some extent, in the church, God's glory has departed from his church. Do you agree with such a conclusion? If so, why?
- 3) The conclusion at the end of chapter 4 is proven to be untrue by the events of chapter 5. 1 Sam. 5:6 says, "The hand of the Lord was heavy..." This means the presence of God was glorious because the root of the word heavy comes from the same word for glory. What do you think is the significance of this for the people of Israel?
- 4) Over the course of long years, Israel forgot the God to whom they belonged. There was a loss of identity. Many people in Westbury suffer with an identity problem, they believe they are worthless. Is that the correct attitude for those who belong to Christ? If not, why not? (Read through Ephesians 1 together to discover the truth of God's working in our lives as his children)
- 5) If you suffer with feeling worthless, what can you do conquer such feeling? (Read **Romans 12:2** about renewing the mind. Discuss ways of getting the truth into a person's mind.)
- 6) How can we walk in our identity as His chosen ones? (Read through **Ephesians 4**)
- 7) If you have time, consider Paul's words to the Galatians in **Galatians 5:16-26** about living and being guided by the Spirit of God.