

# Bible Talk Outline



## WHEN YOUR IDOL NEEDS A HAND | Luke Dahlenburg

**Bible reading:** 1 Samuel 4-7

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### DIY Spirituality

- a. IKEA spirituality = pick what you like, assemble it your way.
  - i. Attractive because it offers spiritual fruit without commitment.
- b. Johnny Cash, "They want the kingdom, but they don't want God in it."
- c. God is God without us.
- d. 1 Samuel 4-7 shows God's people and the nations doing this.

**Big Idea:** Are my thoughts about God too tame and domesticated?

### Context

- a. In the time of Judges, raiding bands were common.
- b. Defeated in battle (4:1-2) = The "Silver Bullet"? bring God's Ark to battle!
  - i. Ark = Symbolic of God's presence, power and holiness.
  - ii. Problem: They didn't pray or ask Samuel; God became a tool.
  - iii. Ch 4: Pride leads to loss (Defeat, Death and God's glory departs).
- c. God is not a mascot.

### God Humbles All Idols (5:1-5)

- a. Philistines place the Ark next to Dagon.
- b. Overnight, Dagon falls face-down before the Ark.
- c. Meaning: God is sovereign over all, humbling human pride and idols.

## **God Humbles All People (5:6–12)**

- a. The Philistines are afflicted (tumours, plagues).
  - i. They realise they cannot domesticate God.
  - ii. Lesson: God's approach cannot be defined by human terms.
- b. Ark returned, but not without holiness and awe.
  - i. 70 people die for looking into it carelessly (6:19).
- c. Question: Who can stand in God's presence? Answer: Those who repent and turn to Him (7:2-4).

## **Standing in God's Presence Today**

- a. Human hands curse and oppress (Exodus 3).
- b. God's hands rescue, carry, and protect (Isaiah 46).
- c. Jesus' pierced hands allow us to stand holy before God.
- d. Cross = God addressing human pride and idol worship, taking the penalty for our sins.

*Am I worshipping the real God, or just a tame and domesticated version that fits neatly into my life, will you let the living God humble and hold you in His hands?*