

1. **Launcher:** How important is someone’s presence? Can you think of a time when someone’s presence with you was profoundly impactful?

2. **Worship God – Psalm 24:1-6**

Praise God for His presence and power. Worship Him for His faithfulness in the midst of our unfaithfulness

3. **Sermon Reflection:** “The Ark: Captured and Returned”

**God’s Presence & Power**

- What is the value of someone’s presence specifically when you are in desperate need?
- Why was the Ark of the Covenant so incredibly valuable to God’s people? What about it made it incalculable in value?
- Why can we be so assured that God’s presence is with us? Describe the **beauty** of your assurance and surety in that question.

**The Israelites’ Pride & Independence**

- How do we know that the Israelites were prideful and independent?
- Do you consult with the Lord over your day-to-day decision making? Is this usually consultation transactional? Or is it an avenue for intimacy?
- Why does a transactional relationship with the Lord cause for us to become callous and unaware of his presence?

**His Patience and Our Repentance**

- What is God’s treatment of idols (1Sam 5:1-5)?
- Why is this such good news for us? What kind of hope does this give us?
- From this story, what can we learn about what repentance looks like? Repent together as a community and rejoice in God’s grace.

4. **Kingdom Centered Prayer: You Can Pray with Us**

- 1) Praise God for His presence and power. Worship Him for His faithfulness in the midst of our unfaithfulness.
- 2) Consider the ways your life has been marked by independence and idolatry. What do you need to “put away” that may be distracting you from His presence?
- 3) Thank God for His kindness and mercy and the gift of repentance. Consider the beautiful reality that Jesus has given us eternal and intimate access to the Father.
- 4) Who in your life is living a life marked by independence and idolatry? Who do you know that desperately needs God’s presence? Pray for them and ask God to send His Spirit.
- 5) Ask the Spirit to give you a yearning for His presence.

5. **Mission:** Our mission as Christians is to return to God with our whole hearts, so that we can be met with the beauty and power of his immeasurable grace. In Christ, we now have a full assurance of God’s presence with us—let us rejoice and make Him our ultimate priority this week!