

1. **Pray:** ask God to open your mind, soul and spirit to His teaching through His Word
2. **Think:** the questions are designed to expand your knowledge of God and His Word
3. **Begin:** using only your Bible, answer the questions without other outside sources

Lesson Four: 1 Samuel 4:2–7:2

October 5, 2005

These chapters move away from the individual Samuel and reveal Israel's condition.

1. Based on 4:1, what two facts can you give about Israel at this time?
2. Who attacked first according to verse 1 and what was the outcome?
3. What was the elders of Israel's solution to their defeat?
4. What was the ark of the covenant and why was it important to Israel?
See Exodus 25:10–22 and Hebrews 9:4–5.
5. Based on 4:5–11, what was the immediate and the ultimate result of having the ark of the covenant go with Israel?
6. How was God's prophecy to Samuel carried out at this defeat?
7. Hophni and Phinehas weren't the only deaths from this tragic outcome. Who else died and what seemed to be the immediate catalyst?

8. Give the outcome in the Philistine territory to having the ark of the covenant.

9. How long did the ark stay in Philistine territory and how did the Philistines handle the ark's negative impact on their land? Base your answer on 6:1–18. (Be thorough and specific.)

10. Who received the ark back into Israel and what were the outcomes based upon 6:13–21?

Going deeper:

11. How have you misused or misunderstood God's symbols of His presence in your life?

12. a) Where did Israel really go wrong in this entire section of 4:2–7:2?

b) What does that teach you regarding your enemies and fears?