



Sunday Bible Study Guide | November 2, 2025

Weekly Memory Verse

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

Sermon

The God of Thus Far - Pastor Jared Herd

Scriptures: 1 Samuel 4:1-3, 4:18-21, 6:20, 7:10-12; Colossians 1:27

Context: As we conclude our series, Altars, Pastor Jared encourages us to mark the moments when God has been faithful in the past, so we can trust Him with the future.

Mixer

What are you most looking forward to in the month of November?

Sermon Recap & Prayer

Pray together. Read today's scriptures aloud as a group.

Discussion Questions

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read 1 Samuel 4:1-21. What was the reaction on both sides of the battle when the ark of God arrived in the Hebrew camp? What happened next?
2. What led to the thinking that the glory of God had departed Israel?
3. The Philistines captured the ark of God. What did Pastor Jared say about what happened when the Philistines opened it?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. As we see in our passages, the ark of God is significant to Israel. Why?
2. Pastor Jared said that the glory of God is serious business. What do you learn about reverence and negligence by the ways in which the Israelites handled the ark, and the Philistines handled the ark?
3. Read 1 Samuel 7. What allowed Samuel to pause and build an altar to God and not run after the ark?

Application: How can we apply these passages to our lives?

1. When is a time when you felt that the glory of God had departed you? In what ways did you realize you had built a monument (an Ichabod rock) to that tragedy and lost your hope in God?
2. How do you know when you are playing fast and loose with the reverence of God? (you have no trembling, no holy fear) Describe a time when this was you, and why you didn't stay there.
3. What are some ways that you desire and soak in the presence of God?
4. The worst moments (Ichabod moments) are always connected to our best moments. What is a story in your life where you have been able to mark that God has been faithful? Where you can say, "Thus far, the Lord has helped us." (an Ebenezer, your superpower)
5. What are some promises of God that remind you that God is not done helping you yet? Share what gives you hope and strength from Scripture.
6. Where did Pastor Jared say the ark of the Covenant is today? Do you believe that? How does this revelation change how you show up to the next battlefield as a living Ebenezer?

Go First Together

Community shapes us, forms us, and reminds us we don't follow Jesus alone. But the deeper truth is this: God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. As a leader, you have the opportunity to go first and invite your group to be part of something bigger than themselves. Whether it's serving our city, showing up for the next generation, or stepping into a lifestyle of generosity, these are the moments that shape disciples and change lives.

Let's be the kind of church that doesn't wait to make a difference. Let's Go First together!

Your Circle Can Make An Impact!

Serve Day is this Saturday, Nov 8 at Kit Carson Park in Escondido! Join us to help beautify this open space and celebrate afterward with a BBQ with your teams!

