



Unit 9 | Session 5

ELI'S SONS DISOBEYED GOD

1 Samuel 4-6

One day, the Philistines defeated Israel in a battle. The Israelites decided to battle again. This time, however, they would take the ark of the covenant with them. Maybe the ark would help them win.

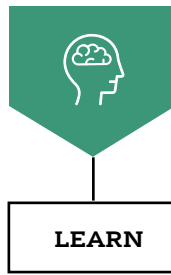
Eli's sons, who did not respect God, took the ark of the covenant to the Israelites' camp. But when the Philistines came out to fight against the Israelites, the Philistines won again! They killed Eli's sons, and they captured the ark of God. When Eli heard the news, he fell backward in his chair and died.

The Philistines worshiped a false god named Dagon. They put the ark next to a statue of Dagon. The next morning, the Philistines found Dagon's statue facedown in front of the ark. The next day, the statue was facedown again. This time, its head and hands were broken off.

God punished the Philistines living in the city where they kept the ark. The Philistines were afraid. They didn't want God to punish them anymore, so they decided to return the ark along with gifts of gold to show they were sorry for taking it. The Philistines hitched two cows to a cart and put the ark on

the cart. The cows moved the ark down the road until the ark of God was back with the Israelites, where it belonged.

Christ Connection: The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Years later, God gave His people something greater than a sign that He was with them; God gave them His Son, Jesus—God in the flesh. One of Jesus' names is Immanuel, which means "God with us."



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Answer these multiple choice questions about the Bible story.

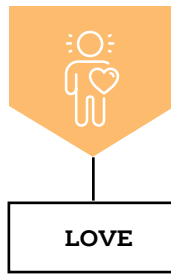
1. The Israelites were enemies of _____ ?
a) the Corinthians; b) the Philistines; c) the Ephesians
2. When the Israelites went to battle a second time, they took _____ with them.
a) boots; b) the ark of the covenant; c) horns
3. When Israel's enemy won the battle a second time, _____ sons were killed.
a) David's; b) Samuel's; c) Eli's
4. What happened when the Philistines put the ark of the covenant near their false god?
a) nothing; b) The false god kept falling over and ultimately broke; c) The false god burned up.
5. How did God punish the Philistines for taking the ark of the covenant?
a) He caused a famine in the land; b) He caused the firstborn sons to die; c) He caused the people to become sick.
6. What did the Philistines return with the ark of the covenant to show that they were sorry?
a) gold; b) diamonds; c) oxen

» What does this story teach us about God?

» Why can we trust God's plans?

CHRIST CONNECTION

The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Years later, God gave His people something greater than a sign that He was with them; God gave them His Son, Jesus—God in the flesh. One of Jesus' names is Immanuel, which means "God with us."



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

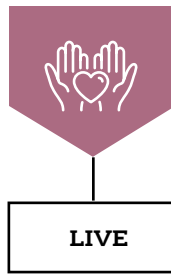
- » What makes God different than any false god?

- » What does this story teach us about God's holiness?

- » Did the ark of God have any special powers?

CHRIST CONNECTION

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THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

» Find Romans 6:23 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, thanking God for being with us and providing the greatest reminder of this truth—His Son, Jesus.

READ THE WORD

Read one of the following passages each day this week:

☐ Psalm 103:1-5

☐ Proverbs 18:10

☐ Romans 5:6-10

☐ Psalm 46:1

☐ 1 Chronicles 29:11

☐ Romans 12:19