



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 9 • Session 5

ELI'S SONS DISOBEYED GOD

1 Samuel 4-6

WHAT IS THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN? THE FAIR PAYMENT FOR SIN IS DEATH.

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."

Eli's Sons Disobeyed God

1 Samuel 4-6

Family Discussion Starters:

- Why didn't carrying the ark of the covenant into battle help Israel defeat the Philistines?
- What are some ways God showed He has power over idols and false gods?

Family Activity:

Work with your kids to decorate a large shoe box to be a "Family Treasure Box." Decide together what items should go into it to serve as reminders of vacations, outings, or other fun times spent together. Discuss the ways the ark was more than a "treasure box."

What's Different? | Find and circle the differences between the two pictures.



Quiz Time! | Answer the multiple choice questions to see what you remember from 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 first born 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