November 1, 2026

Notes for Kids

1&2 Samuel—Part 8

"A Bad Day in the Temple of Dagon"

1 Samuel 5:1-12



English Standard Version

5 When the Philistines captured the ark of God, they brought it from Ebenezer to
Ashdod. [2] Then the Philistines took the ark of God and brought it into the house of
Dagon and set it up beside Dagon. [3] And when the people of Ashdod rose early the
next day, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the ark of the
LORD. So they took Dagon and put him back in his place. [4] But when they rose early on
the next morning, behold, Dagon had fallen face downward on the ground before the
ark of the LORD, and the head of Dagon and both his hands were lying cut off on the
threshold. Only the trunk of Dagon was left to him. [5] This is why the priests of Dagon
and all who enter the house of Dagon do not tread on the threshold of Dagon in
Ashdod to this day.
[6] The hand of the LORD was heavy against the people of Ashdod, and he terrified and
afflicted them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territory. [7] And when the men of
Ashdod saw how things were, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain
with us, for his hand is hard against us and against Dagon our god." [8] So they sent and
gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "What shall we do with the
ark of the God of Israel?" They answered, "Let the ark of the God of Israel be
brought around to Gath." So they brought the ark of the God of Israel there. [9] But
after they had brought it around, the hand of the LORD was against the city, causing a
very great panic, and he afflicted the men of the city, both young and old, so that
tumors broke out on them. [10] So they sent the ark of God to Ekron. But as soon as the
ark of God came to Ekron, the people of Ekron cried out, "They have brought around
to us the ark of the God of Israel to kill us and our people." [11] They sent therefore
and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines and said, "Send away the ark of
the God of Israel, and let it return to its own place, that it may not kill us and our
people." For there was a deathly panic throughout the whole city. The hand of God was
very heavy there. [12] The men who did not die were struck with tumors, and the cry of
the city went up to heaven.

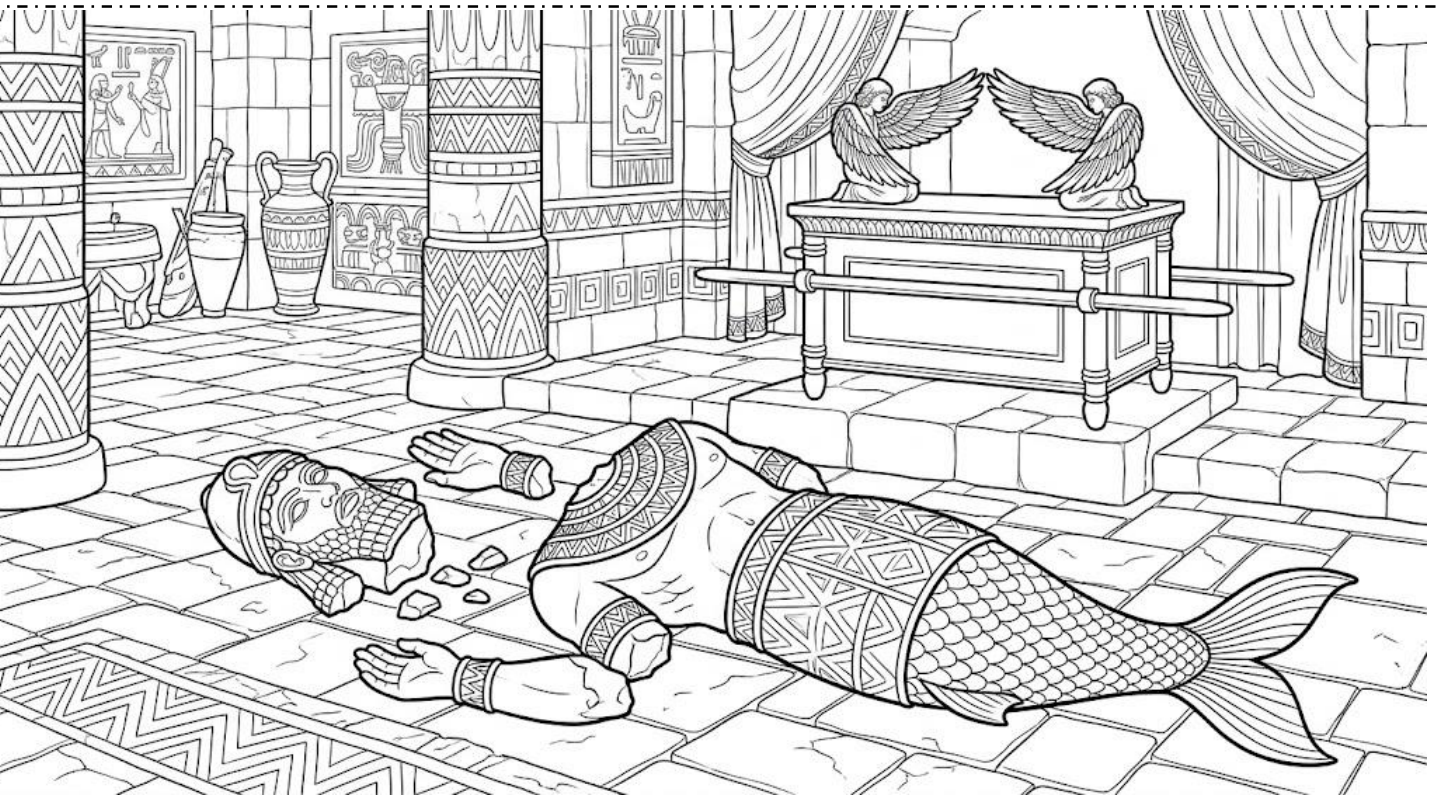
SERMON BINGO!				
PHILISTINES	DAGON	IDOL	ASHDOD	REPENT
TUMORS	LORD	ARK	TEMPLE	EKRON
HAND	POWER	**FREE SPACE**	HEAD	AUTHORITY
WORSHIP	CREATURE	CREATOR	FACE DOWN	THRESHOLD
PLAGUE	MONEY	BOW	JESUS	CHURCH

The Humiliation of Dagon

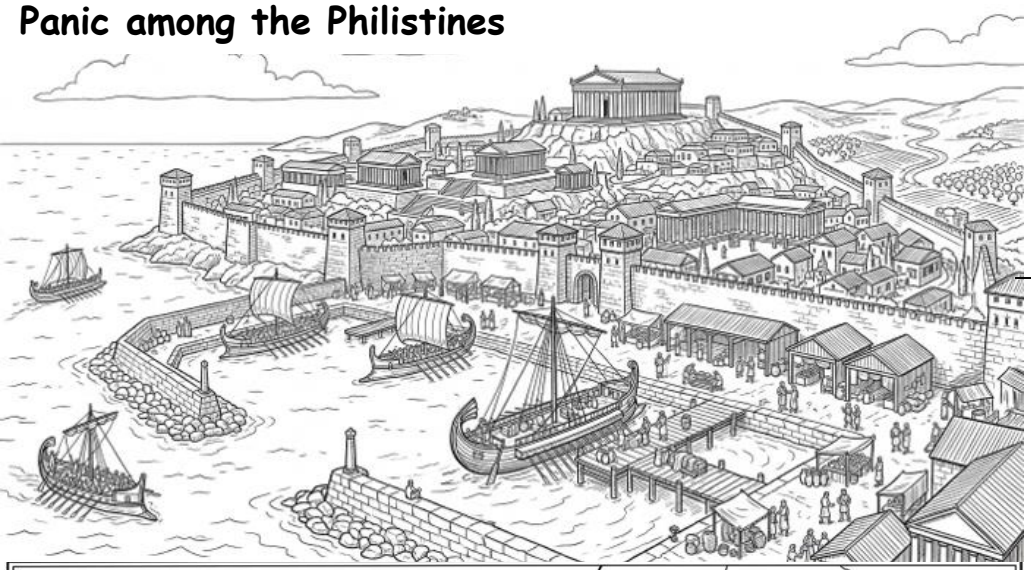
Fill in the blanks with the letter of the correct word or phrase to review the Bible story.

1. These people defeated the Israelites..... _____
2. They captured this from the Israelites..... _____
3. They took the Ark and put it in this building..... _____
4. The Philistines worshiped many gods, but this god was very important to them..... _____
5. They were surprised when their false god was found like this before the Ark of the Lord..... _____
6. They set their false god back up, but the next day he was found like this!..... _____
7. Dagon, face down and broken was a sign to them. The Philistines should have done this and turned toward the true God..... _____
8. His broken head show that he did not have this:..... _____
9. His broken hands show that he did not have this:..... _____

A. Authority
B. Power
C. Repented
D. Broken on the ground
E. Dagon
F. Ark of the Lord
G. Philistines
H. The temple of their false god
I. Face down



Panic among the Philistines



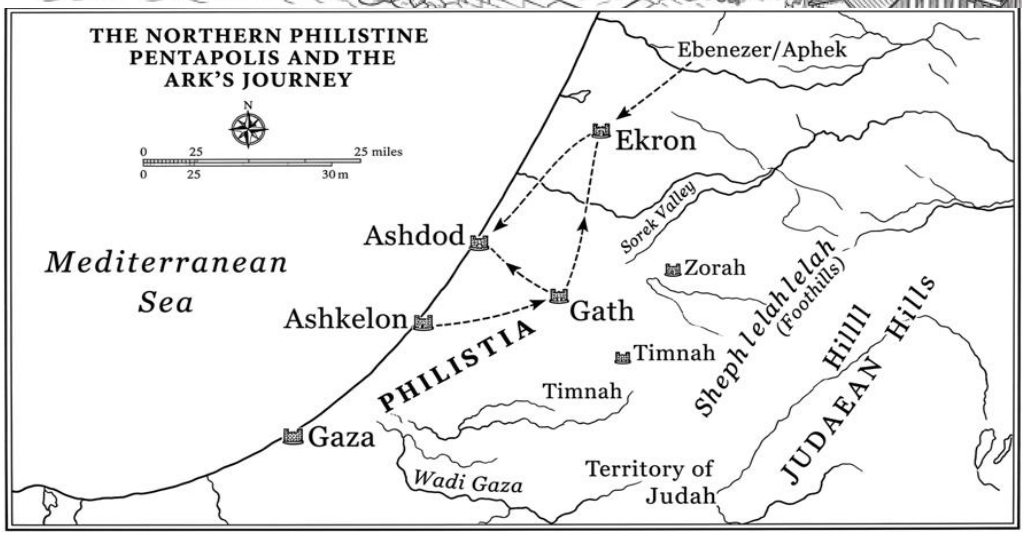
Ashdod was a major port city.
Still, their might could not protect them against God's righteous judgment!

Answer this question:
What happened to the people where ever they took the Ark?

_____

_____

_____



Color the map and find the places where they took the Ark of the Lord.

1. Idolatry's timeless appeal

Choose the best answers

1. What is an idol?_____
   a. A great singer
   b. A statue
   c. Anything we love more than we love God

2. Why is a greedy person an idolater?_____
   a. They love money and things most
   b. They are wealthy
   c. They don't go to church

Find the hidden message by filling in all the boxes with O's one color and all the boxes with X's another color.

O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
O	X	O	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	X	O	O	X	X	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	X		
O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X		
O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	X	X	X	O	X	X	X	O	X	O	X	X	X		
O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	O		
O	O	X	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	O		
O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O		
X	X	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	X	O	O	O	O	X	O	O	X	X	O	O	X	X	O	O		
O	X	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O		
O	X	O	O	X	X	X	O	X	X	O	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	X	O	X	O		
O	X	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O	X	O		
O	X	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O	X	X	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	X	O	X	X	O	O		
O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O		

2. Idolatry's powerful deception

Use the symbols to decode the messages:

KEY

A=++ D=@ E=% F=// G=* I=$ L=() O=# S=<> V=^^^

WE THINK THAT WE ARE IN CONTROL, BUT THE THINGS WE

_____ _____ _____ _____ MORE THAN _____ _____ _____ ,
() # ^^^ % * # @

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ , ALWAYS END UP CONTROLLING US!
$ @ # () <>

3. Idolatry's inevitable end

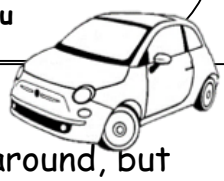
OUR IDOLS WILL ALWAYS

_____ _____ _____ _____
// ++ $ ()

BUT JESUS NEVER DOES!

HELP ME, JESUS, TO LOVE YOU FIRST AND BEST!

Draw a picture to help you remember the sermon.



ANSWER CORNER

The Humiliation...
1G. 2F. 3.H 4.E 5.I 6.D 7.C 8 A. 9.B

What happened: They got sick with tumors!

Idolatry's Timeless appeal
1.C 2,A

Hidden Word:
Worship the Lord

Use the symbols:
LOVE, GOD, IDOLS, FAIL

Questions for the Car

1. The Philistines were moving the Ark of the Covenant around, but do you think they were able to actually move God Himself around?
2. What was significant about Dagon's head and hands breaking off?
3. What does Calvin mean when he says that the heart is an "idol factory?"
4. How do our idols end up controlling us?
5. Search your own heart. Are there any things that you are tempted to love more than God? If so, what should you do?
6. How can we be on guard against idols in our own lives?