



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 3

## THE ARK WAS CAPTURED

1 Samuel 4-6

**HOW DOES GOD CARE FOR HIS CREATION?  
GOD LOVES AND RULES OVER HIS CREATION ACCORDING  
TO HIS PERFECT PLAN.**

One day, Israel was defeated in battle against their enemies, the Philistines. They had an idea: "Let's bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh. Then we will win!"

When the Israelites went to battle with the Philistines again, the Israelites were defeated. The Philistines captured the ark. The Philistines took the ark of the Lord and brought it into the temple of a false god they worshiped.

When they woke up the next day and went into their temple, they found the statue of Dagon fallen over. They put the statue back upright in its place. But the next morning, they again found the statue of Dagon fallen over, but this time the statue's head and hands were broken off.

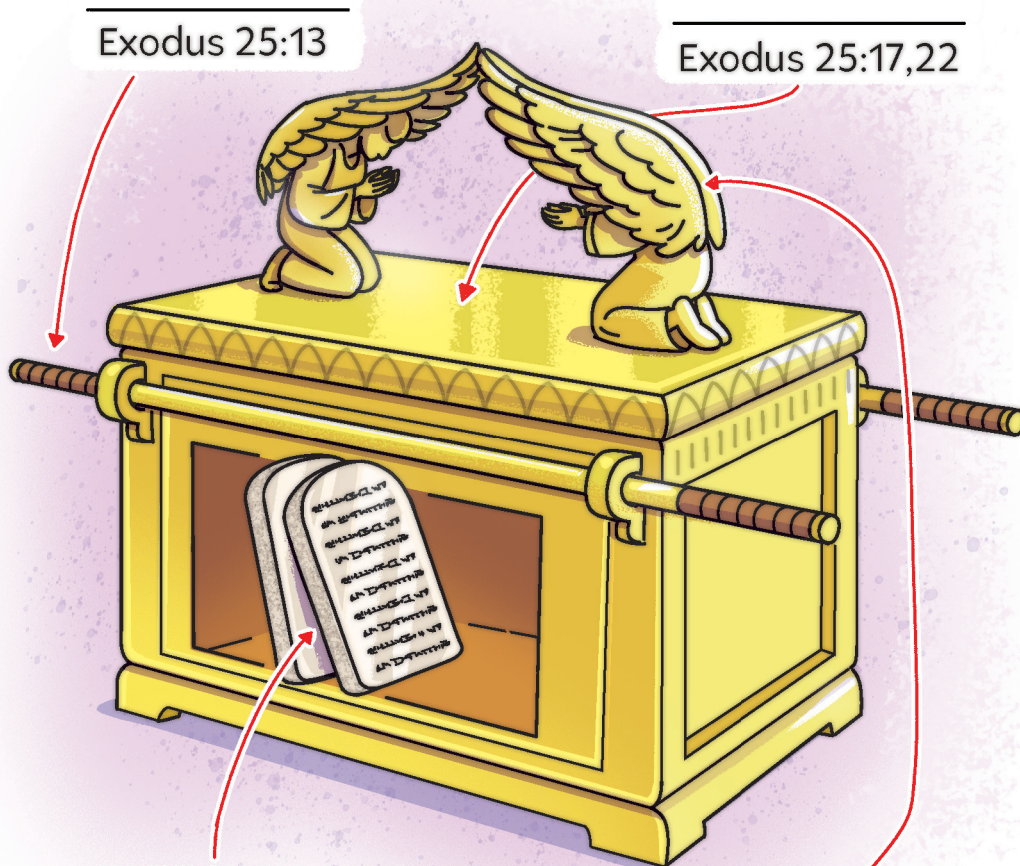
God acted against the Philistines. He punished them, and the Philistines were terrified. They decided to move the ark to a different Philistine city. But God acted against the people in that city. Finally, they decided to send the ark back to Israel.

The Philistines placed the ark on a cart attached to two young cows that had never pulled anything before. They also placed gold gifts in the cart as a guilt offering to the Lord. The cows traveled up the road to the Israelites. The ark of the Lord was back home with the people of God.

**Christ Connection:** God is holy and punished the Israelites and Philistines for misusing the ark. All people sin and deserve God's judgment, but Jesus took that judgment when He died on the cross. All who trust in Jesus are forgiven of sin and saved from judgment.

**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR RESOURCES TO USE AT HOME!**





**Label the Ark |** The ark represented God's presence with His people. Use the Bible references to help you label the parts of the ark.

**Grid It |** The ark was captured and taken to different Philistine cities. Use the grid coordinates to help you answer each question.

A		JOPPA	BETHEL	SHILOH	
B	ASHDOD	PHILISTIA	EKRON	JERUSALEM	JERICO
C	ASHKELON	GATH	BETH-SHEMESH	DEAD SEA	
D		JUDAH			
E		BEER-SHEBA			
F		NEGEV			
	1	2	3	4	5

- Before Israel fought against the Philistines, the ark was in the town of \_\_\_\_\_. (A5)
- After the Philistines captured the ark of God, they took it from Ebenezer to \_\_\_\_\_. (B2).
- Then the Philistines moved the ark to \_\_\_\_\_. (C3).
- Next, the ark was taken to the city of \_\_\_\_\_. (B3).
- Finally, the Philistines returned the ark to the Israelites living in \_\_\_\_\_. (C4).