

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## Eli's Sons Disobeyed God

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Eli the priest had two sons who were both wicked.
- The Israelites fought the Philistines, but God did not give them victory.
- Eli's sons carried the ark of the covenant into battle to be a good luck charm.
- The Philistines won again and captured the ark.
- God punished them for keeping it, so they sent the ark back.

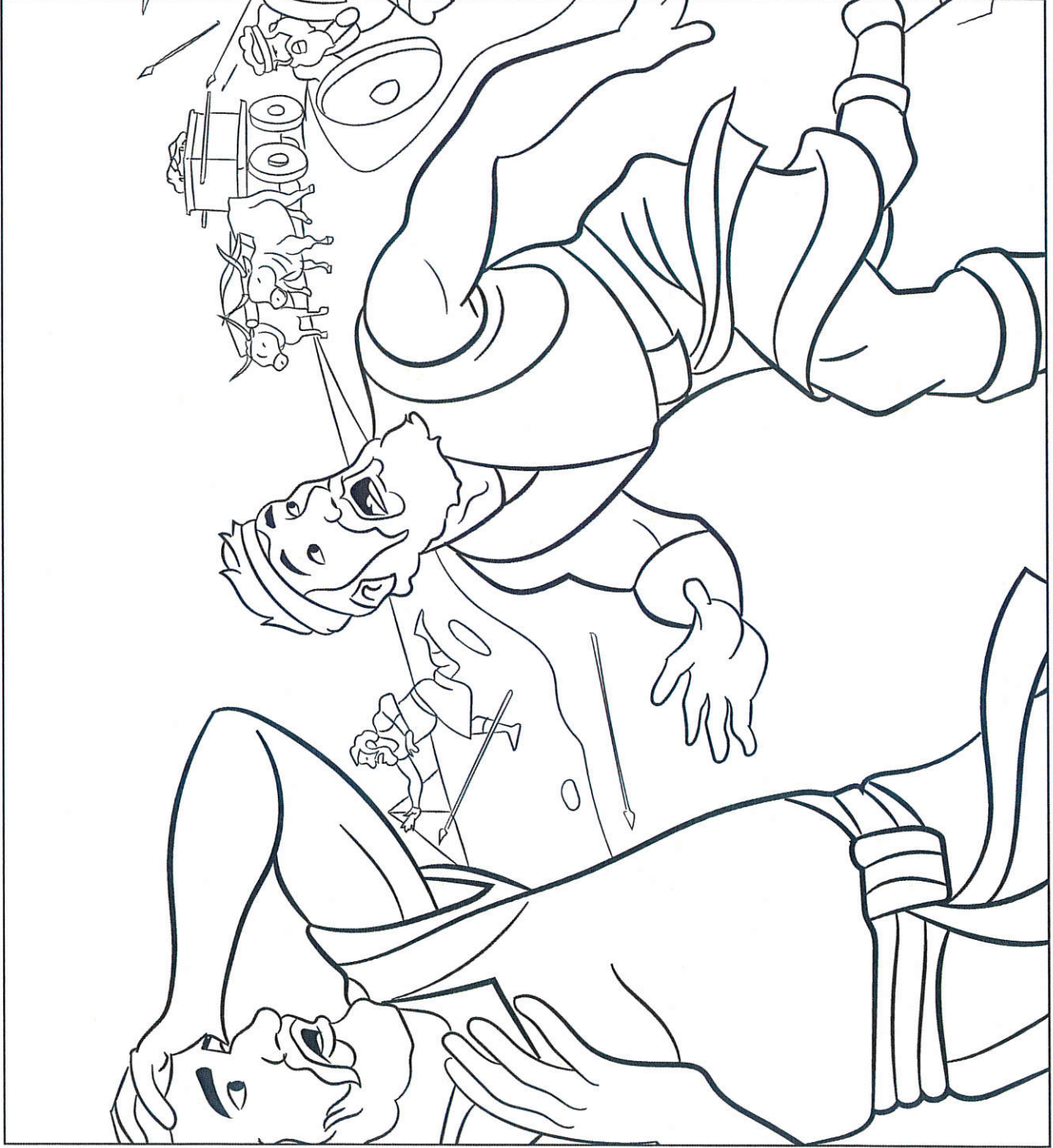
### CHRIST CONNECTION:

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."

**KEY PASSAGE:** Romans 6:23

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.





# It Doesn't Belong

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find and circle the things that don't belong in the Bible story picture. Can you find at least eight?







#### JOURNAL PAGE

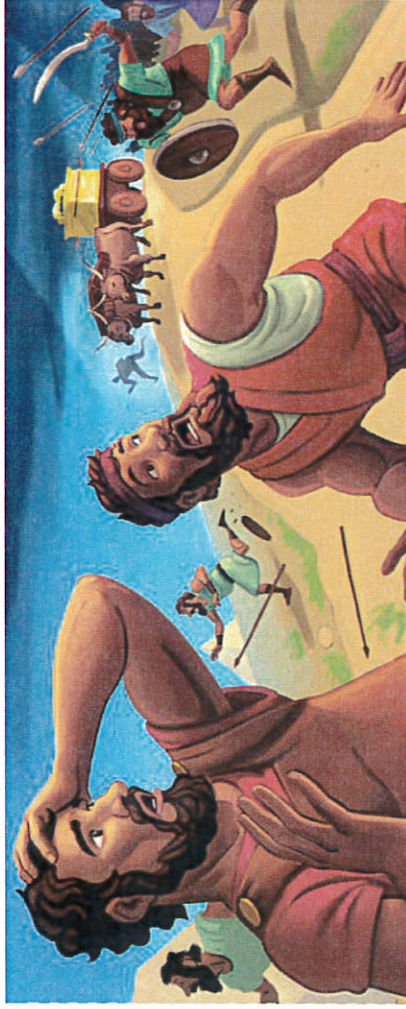
1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?

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."



## 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



the GOSPELPROJECT



Unit 9, Session 5

**Eli's Sons Disobeyed God (1 Samuel 4–6)**



Dear families,

The ark of the covenant was a physical reminder of God's tangible presence with his people. Rather than treat the ark with reverence, they treated the ark as a sort of good luck charm. In our Bible story today, we see what happened when the ark was taken from the people of Israel.

Except in times of war or when the people of Israel were on the move, the ark was kept in the holy of holies in the tabernacle. Once a year, a priest would approach the ark and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat on the ark's top for the forgiveness of the people's sins. The ark and what it represented was temporal and pointed forward to the substantial reality of God who would come and live among His people.

When we realize that Jesus lived a perfect life and then died in our place, we see that Jesus is better than the ark because He is always with us. We are filled with thankfulness.

Jesus is better than the bulls and goats whose blood was sprinkled on the ark because His sacrifice is once, for all time (Heb. 10:10). This should move us to worship.

Finally, we should be humbled and filled with confidence when we realize that Jesus, who lived perfectly in human flesh, died and then was resurrected and ascended into heaven where He, in His glorified human body, prays for us.

This should give you confidence in this life that no matter what we face, God's Holy Spirit is with us. The Son is interceding for us. Because Jesus stands between the Father and us, we can "approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time" (Heb. 4:16). We can go before God daily because of Jesus.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

## FAMILY TALKING POINTS

### CHRIST CONNECTION

*This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.*

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people forever.
- **Younger Preschool:** The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Many years later God sent His very own Son, Jesus, to be with His people.
- **Older Preschool:** The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Many years later, God gave His people something even better to remind them that He was with them. God sent His Son, Jesus. One of Jesus' names is *Immanuel*, which means "God with us."
- **Kids:** 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."

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

*This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.*

- **Younger Preschool:** What is the punishment for sin? The punishment for sin is separation from God.
- **Older Preschool:** What is the punishment for sin? The punishment for sin is death.
- **Kids:** What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

### KEY PASSAGE

*This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.*

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God gives life forever. Romans 6:23
- **Younger Preschool:** God gives life forever. Romans 6:23
- **Older Preschool:** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- **Kids:** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

**\*\* Next week:** God Takes Sin Seriously (Ephesians 2)