

Large Group

The Ark Was Captured

Bible Passage | 1 Samuel 4-6

Memory Verse | Philippians 4:19

Story Point | The Israelites misused the ark, but God still displayed His power.



Countdown Video (3 mins)

Memory Verse Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader connects the lesson to the memory verse, leads the memory verse song with hand motions, and closes in prayer.

Welcome (1 mins)

Large Group Leader tell kids what to expect to happen (1 minute)

- watch the lesson video
- retell the story.
- read the story from scripture

Watch the Lesson Video (4 mins)

Retell the Story (11 mins)

Lead the kids in a fun retelling of the story

Here are some resources to help you formulate this time.

Review what we learned:

Over the past few weeks, we have seen how God cared for His people and met their needs. God was with Ruth and provided a family redeemer for her. Last week, we learned how God heard Hannah's prayers and gave her a son named Samuel. Samuel became a prophet for Israel and spoke God's words to the people. Today, we will see how God's people misused the ark, but God was faithful to display His power so the ark could be returned to Israel.

Today's Lesson

The ark of the covenant was a special reminder that God promised to live among His people. The ark was not something to be careless with or to treat like a good luck charm. It was to be treated as holy because it was a symbol of God's presence. What did the Israelites do with the ark? [Allow responses.] The Israelites chose to take the ark with them into battle. When they did this, they were not obedient to God's commands. God is holy, and we must obey His commands because everything God commands is right and good.

What happened to the ark while the Israelites were battling the Philistines? [Allow responses.] The Philistines captured the ark! **The Israelites misused the ark, but God still displayed His power.** How did God display His power to the Philistines? [Allow responses.] God alone is God. When the Philistines put the ark in the temple of their false god Dagon, God made the idol statue fall over. He did this again, and the statue's head and arms broke off. God also gave the Philistine people tumors. They were terrified and recognized that God was powerful.

Eventually, the Philistines decided to send the ark back to God's people. The Philistines made a plan to send the ark on a cart pulled by cows. The cows had never traveled to the Israelites' town of Beth-shemesh, yet God directed the cows' steps to His people. God showed His faithfulness to His people and that He would continue to be with them.

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.

Gospel Discussion | Today, we learned The Israelites misused the ark, but God still displayed His power. In the same way, you and I are sinners who have also disobeyed God's commands. God gave us the ultimate display of power by sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise from the dead. Have you placed your faith in Jesus, trusting in Him for forgiveness of sins?

Read from the Bible (4 mins)

1 Samuel 5:1-4, 6-11; 6:1-3, 7-8, 13

Remind Kids of Four Questions (1 min)

- What did you like about today's story?
- What did you find confusing?
- What did you learn about people?
- What did you learn about God?

Worship Song (4 mins)

Worship Leader briefly introduces self, welcomes kids, leads 1st worship song, and prays for the time.