

1st-3rd Grade Lesson Plan

Sunday, September 7

UNIT 9 | SESSION 3

THE ARK WAS CAPTURED

1 SAMUEL 4-6

MAIN POINT / CHRIST CONNECTION: God is above every other god. 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."

CATECHISM QUESTION : Q) What is righteousness? A) It is God's goodness. (*Exo 33:19; 34:6; Psa 33:5; Hos 3:5; Rom 11:22.*)

MEMORY VERSE of the Month: PHILIPPIANS 4:19 - "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (ESV)

Preparation

Lesson Context

This Unit: Regardless of sin patterns and disobedience, God continued to see His people and hear their requests and desires. God's provision is seen through His gifts of a kinsman redeemer for Ruth's family, a son with a prophetic calling for Hannah, and freedom and protection for the Israelites from the Philistines. God's plan remained steadfast, despite humanity's brokenness.

Volunteer Huddle | **8:45 a.m.**

Meet in the Threes classroom (first floor) for prayer and important info for this Sunday.

Prep Room | 8:50 a.m.

- Put out activity pages (in Activity Box) and markers (in Teacher Box) on desks.
- If you'd like, put music on the Spotify app on the Roku TV.
- You can push tables back or to the sides to make space in the center or front of the room for activities.

Fellowship Time | 9:00 - 9:15 am

FELLOWSHIP TIME

Greet families at the door as they arrive. Allow children time to engage with one another and catch up. Use this time to get to know your students and hear about their week. What was a good part/hard part or “yay duck”/“yuck duck” of their week? If you'd like a prompting question for discussion, you can use the one below:

SAY: *Have you ever lost something important to you? What was it? How did you feel when you lost it?*

ACTIVITY PAGE

Lead children to choose a desk and give them an Activity Page and markers (in Activity Box). You can also give them blank paper to draw or some playdough (in Teacher Box) if you prefer.

SAY: *Today, we will learn how God's people sinned and the ark of the covenant was captured.*

REVIEW CLASSROOM RULES

Post the Rules Poster (in Activity Box) somewhere in the room.

1. **Be kind and respectful:** to your friends and teachers. Raise your hand and wait to be called; speak kindly to one another; use words and actions that build up and do not tear down; etc.
2. **Have a heart of obedience:** Listen to your teachers' instructions and obey fully, quickly, and joyfully!
3. **Have self control:** Keep your hands, feet, and objects to yourself; keep all chair legs on the ground; no running or rough housing. Do not touch one another; let's not poke each other, hit, kick, etc.

Group Activity | 9:10/9:15 am

PASS THE ARK

Lead preschoolers to sit in a circle. Instruct them to quickly pass a **bean bag** (in Activity Box) around the circle as the music plays. Explain that whoever is holding the beanbag when the music stops must make a “Moo” sound, like a cow. Consider playing the memory verse song “My God Will Supply (Philippians 4:19)” (on the YouTube app) as children pass the beanbag.

SAY *Today we are going to learn that the Philistines captured the ark of the covenant. But the ark became like our beanbag; they passed the ark around, trying to get rid of it as fast as they could. The ark was taken, but God still showed His power. God showed His power by punishing the Philistines and making people sick in each city where they took the ark. Eventually, the Philistines sent the ark back to Israel on a cart pulled by cows. Let's learn more about it!*

Lesson | 9:20 am

Ask students to return to their desks and pass out **Bibles** (in Teacher Box). Let them know of your expectations during the lesson: listening to the teacher, sitting quietly with hands and feet to themselves, etc.

1. Introduce the Lesson + Pray

SAY *Hi, kids! I am glad you're here to learn more about our great God. Did you know that God is holy? This means that God's character is unique and separate from what He created. He is morally perfect—He never sins—and He is infinitely greater than us in every way. Today, in 1 Samuel, we'll see how the people did not treat God as holy when they misused the ark of the covenant.*

2. Catechism Question

Use the **Catechism Question** posters to review previous questions and learn the new one for this week (in Activity Box).

SAY: *Let's learn a new catechism question today:*

Q) What is righteousness?

A) It is God's goodness.

Righteousness is the opposite of sin. In the Bible God's righteousness is described as all of his goodness. Let's review our question and answer:

Q) What is righteousness?

A) It is God's goodness.

3. Using Bibles

SAY: *Today, we will be in the book of 1 SAMUEL. Is 1 SAMUEL in the New or Old Testament?*

1. *Turn to the Table of Contents at the front of your Bibles and look under the Old Testament category to find the book of 1 SAMUEL. Turn to that page number.*
2. *Once you've found 1 SAMUEL, I would like you to find chapter 4. .*

4. Tell the Bible Story

Open your **Bible** to **1 SAMUEL 4** and ask children to turn in their Bibles.

THE ARK WAS CAPTURED

One day, Israel was defeated in battle against their enemies, the Philistines. When they returned to the camp, they had an idea: “Let’s bring the ark of the Lord’s covenant from Shiloh. Then we will win!”

The ark represented God’s presence with His people. The Israelites thought the ark of the covenant would help them win against the Philistines.

When the Israelites went to battle with the Philistines again, the Israelites were defeated. The Philistines captured the ark, and Hophni and Phineas died.

When Eli heard how the Philistines took the ark, he fell over backward out of his chair and died.

The Philistines took the ark of the Lord and brought it into the temple of a false god they worshiped named Dagon. When they woke up the next day and went into their temple, they found the statue of Dagon fallen over, face down before the ark of the Lord. 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 with tumors, 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. Then the Philistines moved the ark a third time, but God continued to punish the Philistines. 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.

4. Christ Connection

SAY: God is above every other god. *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.”*

Review & Video | 9:30 am

Bible Story Video

If you'd like, watch the **Bible lesson video** on the YouTube app on the TV (*YouTube account should be Fellowship Kids* (switch accounts on the top of the left sidebar if not) > go to Library on the left side bar > Choose Playlists on the top > choose your classroom).

Review the Bible Story

Invite children to **open their Bibles to 1 SAMUEL 5:1-7.**

SAY - Let's review a section of scripture from our Bible lesson today. Please turn to **1 SAMUEL 2:1-8**. This is Hannah's prayer of thanks to God after God gave her Samuel.

- 1. What happened every night when the ark was in Dagon's temple?**
 - a. The idol Dagon fell to the floor!
- 2. Who was more powerful - God or Dagon?**
 - a. God is more powerful! God is above all. The ark symbolized God's presence and when the idol Dagon was in God's presence, he literally fell over!
- 3. How did the Philistines feel about the ark?**
 - a. They became very scared of it because God would afflict them wherever it went.

Pray

Ask students if they have any **prayer requests**. Pray about what you learned in the lesson and for any requests.

Memory Verse | 9:35 am

Show the **memory verse poster** (in Activity Box). Open your Bible to **PHILIPPIANS 4:19** and lead the kids to read the verses together. You can also write the verse on the whiteboard so that children can see it more clearly.

“And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

- **PHILIPPIANS 4:19**

MEMORY VERSE THEATER

Invite the class to say the memory verse in lots of fun ways. Some suggestions: loud, soft, Texan accent, high-pitched, low/deep, eyes closed, slow, fast, holding your nose, singing, holding your tongue, etc. Get creative and come up with your own fun ways to learn the memory verse.

SAY: *Even though God’s people misused the ark, God displayed His glory through His powerful judgments. God has also displayed His power to provide our need of salvation through His Son, Jesus. Jesus saves us from our sin when we trust in Him.*

Extra Time Activity

GREATEST VALUE

On a dry erase board, write the following items: smartphone, soccer ball, bicycle, can of beans, movie ticket, gallon of milk, 1 lb of gold. Provide each kid with a piece of paper and a pen. Tell kids to think about the average value of each item. Then challenge kids to list the items in order from greatest value to least.

(Answers based on rough estimates: \$29,000 for 1 lb of gold, \$790 for a smartphone, \$308 for a bicycle, \$20 for a soccer ball, \$10.53 for a movie ticket, \$4.03 for a gallon of milk, \$1.69 for a can of beans)

SAY *One pound of gold was the most valuable item on the list. Did you know that the ark of the covenant was overlaid with pure gold? If the ark represented God's presence, it would make sense to decorate it with something valuable. God is most valuable because He is holy. We are sinners, but He is perfect. Today, we saw how Israel didn't treat God as most valuable.*

Dismissal | 9:50 am

As parents arrive,

- Match the 4 digit code on the parent's tag to the child's tag
- Check out the child on the tablet by clicking the check box to the left of their name on the roster.
- **Give feedback!** Tell parents how the student did that morning.

Clean Up

- Wipe down tables if any messes were made with activities. [Magic eraser sponges can erase markings on desks.]
- Put teacher and activity items back in the Activity Box or Teacher Box.
- Place the TV remote in the white holder on the dry erase board.
- Return the small Activity Box, class tablet, and your lanyards to the check-in desk.