

Use the following thoughts and questions to have a spiritual conversation as a family. Don't emphasize having the right answer, but focus on spending time discussing the Word as a family.

Scripture

1 Samuel 4:2-7,10-11; 6:13-16,19-21

Session Summary

The ark of the covenant did not contain God's presence—God cannot be contained. The ark was a symbol of God's presence; however, there were some very specific instructions on how to care for the ark. Not only did the Israelites confuse the presence of the ark with the presence of God, but they also failed to handle the ark properly. They tried to use the ark to their advantage against the Philistine army and lost. Then, when the ark ended up in Beth-shemesh, the people looked inside of the ark—something they weren't supposed to do. And God punished them. It's important to recognize God for who He is and to trust in Him rather than feelings or superstitions.

Conversation Questions

- What things or people might our family be tempted to worship instead of worshiping God?
- How can our family honor the holiness of God's presence in our home?
- When can it be difficult for our family to trust in God more than tradition or superstition?
- In what ways can our family show God's presence to the world around us this week?

Family Challenge

Spend some time talking together about things, people, even TV shows or events that have become idols to your family. Discuss ways you can break down those idols, what God might be calling you to give up, and what steps you can take to get rid of the idols in your family's life.