

Lesson 2

Going With God

Theme: Obedience — Consequences of disobedience



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts (See page 8 of this Guide)

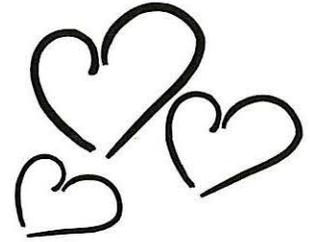
Memory Verse: Have Memory Verse strips face down and out of sequence on the floor in front of the pocket chart. Have the students unscramble the strips and place them correctly in the pocket chart.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read 1 Samuel 4:10-18. Have reading students find and mark 1 Samuel 4:10 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students locate the following places on the map of Israel in the time of David, found on page 71 of this Guide – Shiloh, Aphek, Ebenezer, Ashdod, Ekron, Gath, Beth-shemesh, Kiriath-Jearim, Bethel, Gilgal, Mispah, Ramah, and the land of the Amalekites.
5. Introduce the Lesson Graphics and props using the “Loving & Working Toolbox” as described on page 10 of this Guide.
6. Tell the story using the *Loving Hearts & Working Hands Lesson Graphics* and other props such as an Ark of the Covenant (made as suggested on page 9 of this Guide), a stool or bench for Eli to “fall off and die,” a model of idol Dagon (made as suggested on page 73 of this Guide), and “tumors” for students to wear made from big red dots.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:

- Eli's sons, Hophni and Phinehas, disobeyed God in taking the ark of covenant to the battlefield against the Philistines.
 - The consequences of this sin and of all their sins were that the Philistines won the battle over the Israelites, Hophni and Phinehas were killed, and Eli died when he heard the bad news.
 - The Philistines took the ark of the covenant, so God caused their idol Dagon to fall and break.
 - Everywhere the Philistines took the ark of the covenant, God caused them to break out in tumors.
 - When Samuel told the Israelites to obey God, they did, and God was with them in winning against the Philistines.
 - God expects parents (even of adult children) to rebuke their children when they do wrong.
 - God blesses those who are obedient to Him.
8. Assign students to be Eli, Hophni and Phinehas who carry the ark of the covenant, and a messenger. The rest of the students are Philistine and Israelite soldiers. Have the soldiers from two armies fight, and have the Philistines win the battle. The Israelites decide they should bring the ark of the covenant to the battlefield. Hophni and Phinehas carry the ark to the battlefield. Eli stays at the tabernacle. The ark does not help Israel win. Hophni and Phinehas are killed in battle and the ark is captured by Philistines. The messenger runs to the tabernacle to tell Eli the news. Eli is sitting by the road waiting for news of the ark and is so sad and shocked by the news that he falls off his seat backwards and breaks his neck. Discuss that simply taking the ark into battle was not what Israel needed to win the battle. Instead, God wanted His people to be faithful to Him. When they were, God always fought His people's battles for them.



Going With God

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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts (See page 8 of this Guide)

Memory Verse: Have the Memory Verse strips scrambled in the pocket chart. Have the students straighten them out and arrange them correctly. Talk about the Memory Verse and why it is good to learn it.

Prayer

Starter

Have you ever been lost? At a store or some crowded place, were you separated from your parents for a few minutes? You were probably scared. When you are small and everyone around you is tall and you don't know them, it can be frightening. How did you feel when you finally saw your parents again? You were relieved and felt safe again. You were glad they were there.

One time in Israel's history, God was not with His people as they thought He was. They were worshipping other gods along with the one true God. They thought this was okay, but it was not okay. God did not stay with His people. When they went to battle and thought God was with them, they found out He was not.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 1 Samuel 4:10-18.

Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** Review the lesson from Sunday morning.

Write on individual pieces of paper all of the consequences in the story of the lesson. To review and reinforce the story, have each student draw one piece of paper and tell the specific cause of the consequence. On other pieces of paper, write consequences to activities the children know about — a special treat of ice cream, TV privilege taken away, no video games, spend the evening in your room alone, staying up late for a special

event, etc. Have each student draw one of the current-day consequences and create a scenario that may have caused the consequence.

2. **Objective:** *Understand that God was not happy when the ark — a symbol of His presence — was with the Philistines who were not His people and who worshiped other gods.*

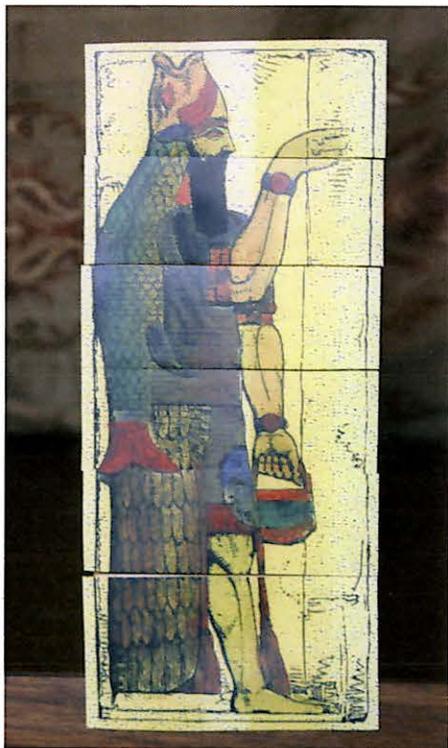
On the floor, mark with colored tape a rough map of the Philistine cities of Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron plus the cities of Israel, Beth-shemesh and Kiriath-Jearim. Make a model of Dagon out of a few small boxes. Make him so that he will come apart when he is knocked over. Choose students to be Philistines, two cows, men of Beth-shemesh, men of Kiriath-Jearim, and Eleazar. As described in 1 Samuel 5, have Philistines carry the model ark from city to city. Discuss the effect of the ark in the land of the Philistines as God demonstrated His power over the Philistines' gods. In particular, show Dagon in pieces on the floor each morning. Reenact how the ark was returned to Israel and what happened at Beth-shemesh. Have men of Kiriath-Jearim carry the ark to the house on the hill where Eleazar the priest tends to it. Discuss how we must respect God's presence.

3. **Objective:** *Understand how memorials work.*

Talk with the students about memorials today. You may provide pictures or other visuals of memorials such as the Statue of Liberty, the Washington Monument, the Vietnam War Memorial. Discuss why we need memorials and how they work. Read aloud 1 Samuel 7:3-14 and talk about Ebenezer. You may refer to a song *O, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* that mentions Ebenezer, meaning "stone of help." In singing this song, we should think about God's help and not about Ebenezer Scrooge from Charles Dickens' *The Christmas Carol*!

BIG HEART Display: The ark of the covenant

The Idol Dagon



Use blocks of wood or Styrofoam that stack up to the length of the graphic to the right. With glue or tape, mount the graphic to the pieces so that when stacked up it is complete, as shown in the photograph above. In teaching the lesson, show Dagon on the ground and in pieces as shown in the photograph below.

Picture of Dagon taken from, www.Bible-History.com.

