

Loving Hearts & Working Hands



Lesson 2

Going with God

Theme: Obedience — Recognizing consequences of disobedience

Memory Verses

“Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.”

1 Samuel 12:24-25

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Samuel 4:1-11, 16-18
- 2 1 Samuel 5:1-12
- 3 1 Samuel 6:1-4, 7-9
- 4 1 Samuel 6:10-15, 19-21
- 5 1 Samuel 7:1-4, 8-13

The ark of the covenant was a kind of box that was placed in the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle. The ark reminded people that God was with them. Let's go with the ark to learn some important lessons about God's being with His people.

1 Samuel 4:1-11, 16-18

What did some Israelites think would help them win battles against the Philistines?

- more weapons
- stronger soldiers
- the ark of the covenant

How did Israel's next battle with the Philistines turn out?

- Israel lost, and Hophni and Phinehas both died
- Israel won because they had the ark
- Israel lost thirty soldiers



The Ark on the Battlefield

Superstitions are beliefs that what happens is controlled by something that has nothing to do with the event. The Israelites were superstitious about the ark of the covenant.

They thought that as long as they had the ark, everything would be good. One time when the Philistines won in battle against the Israelites, some in Israel thought having the ark of the covenant would make them win. The priest Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, took the ark into battle.

At first the Philistines were afraid, but then they defeated Israel in battle. The Philistines also captured the ark of the covenant and killed Hophni and Phinehas. When news of the ark's capture reached Eli, he was stunned and fell off his seat backward and this broke his neck. Israel lost the battle, not because of where the ark was but because the people were not faithful to God.

The Ark in Philistine Cities

The Philistines thought that capturing the ark meant they won. But they were wicked people, and having the ark meant trouble for them. The trouble started in the city of Ashdod where people broke out in tumors, which were

probably something like big bumps on their bodies. The people of Ashdod sent the ark to other Philistine cities, but trouble broke out everywhere the ark went!

After about seven months of having the ark in their land, the Philistines figured out that it was causing

1 Samuel 5:1-12

What happened to the people of Ashdod, Gath, and Ekron when the ark was in their cities?

What kept happening to the Philistine god named Dagon?



1 Samuel 6:1-4, 7-9

True or False? The Philistine priests told them to send the ark back to Israel with guilt offerings.

How did the Philistines think they could know Israel's God was striking them because of the ark?

- if the ark fell off of the cart
- if the cow found its own way home



trouble. They decided to send the ark back to Israel. When the cows pulling the ark went straight to Israel, God made it clear that He was in charge!

1 Samuel 6:10-15, 19-21

True or False? The milk cows that were pulling the ark of the covenant got lost and couldn't find their way back to Israel.

What happened when the men of Beth-shemesh looked into the ark?



The Ark Back In Israel

When the Israelites saw the ark, they thanked God by making sacrifices. Some men looked inside the ark against God's will, and over 50,000 people died. The ark was back in Israel, but things still did not go well; the Philistines still attacked Israel and won battles. What was wrong?

1 Samuel 7:1-4, 8-13

What did Samuel tell the Israelites to do about their sin of following other gods:

- give their hearts to the Lord
- get rid of the idols
- serve God alone
- all of these

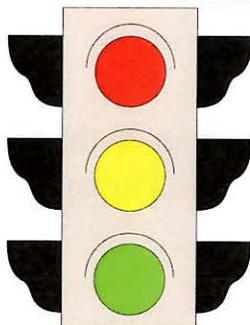
What does 'Ebenezer' mean?

Samuel told the people to turn to God and serve only Him. When they did, God was with them!

Samuel set up a stone called 'Ebenezer,' meaning, "The Lord has helped us this far." God continued to fight for Israel. When we trust and obey God, He will be with us and fight battles for us. Whatever you do in life, go with God!



When bad things happen to me, I blame it on someone or something else.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

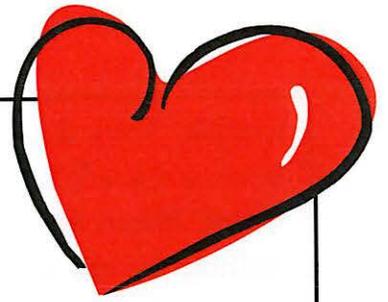
Red — always

Yellow — sometimes

Green — never

Think About It ...

‘Going with God’ means trusting and worshiping only God. Samuel tried to go with God and did not worship idols. How was the stone called ‘Ebenezer’ that Samuel set up different from an idol?



Working Hard on Bible Facts

What books of the Old Testament are about kings ruling Israel and have a special focus on the temple?

Right here, right now, write Genesis 1:1 from memory:

On a map inside the back cover, mark with an **X** the places where Israel’s enemies lived — Edom, Ammon, Moab, and Philistia.