



cbckids

FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

JUNE 21, 2020

Key Passage:

“There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might.” (Jeremiah 10:6)

Big Picture Question:

Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

Review:

In a country called Ephraim, there lived a man named Elkanah and his wife Hannah. Hannah was very sad because she did not have any children. She wanted to have a family so she prayed to the Lord. “Lord, if you give me a son, I will dedicate him to you. He will serve you all of his life,” she said.

A priest named Eli was watching her pray and said, “Go in peace. May God answer your prayers.” When the couple returned home, God did answer their prayers. Hannah gave birth to a son and named him Samuel, which means “requested from God.” When Samuel was no longer a baby, she returned to the tabernacle and left him with Eli to serve God. As Samuel grew older, he found favor with God and with men.

One night, God called Samuel three times but each time Samuel ran to Eli. “Here I am,” he said. Eli finally understood that it was God who was calling to Samuel and told him how to respond. The next time God called Samuel, he said, “Speak, for Your servant is listening.” As Samuel grew, God was with him. Everyone in Israel knew that Samuel was God’s messenger. God used Samuel to share His plan with the nation of Israel.

Lesson:

The people of Israel and the Philistines did not get along and fought many battles. One day, the Israelites fought a battle against the Philistines, and God was allowing the Philistines to win. The Israelites were confused.

The Israelites made a plan to take the ark of God, which was also called “the ark of the covenant,” to the battle. The ark was a beautiful box from the tabernacle that reminded God’s people that he was with them. They thought the ark might help them win the battle. Eli’s sons, the priests, took the ark of the covenant to the Israelites’ camp. When the army of Israelites saw the ark, they shouted with joy. The Israelites fought the battle, but the Philistines won again! Many Israelites died during the battle— including Eli’s two sons—and the Philistines captured the ark. One of the men in the battle ran to tell Eli what had happened. When Eli heard the news, he fell backward in his chair, broke his neck, and died.

The Philistines took the ark of God to a temple where they worshiped a false god called Dagon (DAY gahn). They put the ark next to a statue of Dagon. The next morning, the Philistines went into the temple and saw that Dagon’s statue was facedown in front of the ark. They set the statue back up but the next day it was facedown again and its head and hands were broken off. God was showing the Philistines that he was the one true God.

As the ark moved between different Philistine cities, God afflicted the people and made them sick. The people in each city wanted to get rid of the ark. The Philistines were afraid. They didn’t want God to punish them anymore, so they decided to return the ark along with gifts of gold to show they were sorry for taking it. The people hitched two cows to a cart and put the ark on the cart. The cows moved the ark down the road until the ark of God was back with the Israelites, where it belonged.

(Summary 1 Samuel 4–6)

Christ Connection:

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. The Bible says that one of Jesus' names is Immanuel, which means "God with us."

Questions for Discussion:

1. What did the Israelites do to try and win the battle against the Philistines? *They decided to take the ark into battle*
2. What was the ark and why was it so meaningful to the Israelites? *The ark was a beautiful box from the tabernacle that reminded God's people that he was with them*
3. What happened to the Philistines while they had the ark? *Their idol (Dagon) fell and broke and their people got sick*
4. Why do you think the Israelites lost the battle? *Help your kids understand that though the ark was a reminder of God's presence, God did not live in it. They expected the ark to save and protect them instead of putting their trust in God to rescue them.*
5. What action did God take many years after this story to more clearly show His presence with His people? *God sent His Son, Jesus. The Bible says that one of Jesus' names is Immanuel, which means "God with us."*

Suggested Activity:

Today we're going to make our own treasure boxes. Print copies of the included treasure box template and help your kids fold them into a box shape. Have everyone decorate their box and reinforce it with craft sticks to make them sturdier. Allow them to put their own items in their box and remind them that, as special as some of our treasure is, our greatest treasure is Christ! He loves us and died for us so that we could have life with God forever.

We've also included a DIY comic from today's lesson. Print this out and allow your older kids to illustrate each scene from the story.

Family Worship:

Listen to a song from the [CBC Kids Scripture Songs album](#) on Spotify or iTunes.

["God With Us"](#) by All Sons & Daughters

["Only Jesus"](#) by Austin Stone Worship

You can also listen to the ["Cultivate Unity, Celebrate Diversity" playlist](#) created by Gardner on Spotify.