



At-A-Glance: Ages 10-12
Kings & Kingdoms Part 2: Judges - Esther
Unit 7, Lesson 37

Samuel and the Ark of God

Lesson Aim: To know the power of God's presence.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: When is a time God has helped you?

GAME: Ebenezer Stone Hopscotch Relay

THE WORSHIP THE KING WHO WATCHES OVER US

Read Worship Scripture: Psalm 89:15.

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook.

THE WORD GOD MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: Boaz was the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth.

Today, we will learn how God showed His powerful presence when Samuel was judge over Israel. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13. Find 1 Samuel 5:1-4 First. Pray. Read.

The Israelites brought the ark of God to the battlefield in hopes He would save them. However, the Philistines defeated them and captured the ark. Let's read 1 Samuel 5:1-4 and see how God made His powerful presence known to the Philistines. Read 1 Samuel 5:1-4.

Turn to 1 Samuel 7:3-5, 12-13. Let's highlight our Key Verse: 1 Samuel 7:12. God made the Philistines sick until they returned the ark. For 20 more years, the Israelites continued to suffer. Then Samuel told them what to do. Read 1 Samuel 7:3-5. Point out Mizpah. **In Mizpah, the people confessed their sins. As Samuel prayed, God sent thunder so loud that the Philistines were afraid and ran away. Check out how Samuel celebrated that day.** Read 1 Samuel 7:12-13.

THE WAY GOD IS WITH US TODAY

Why do you think God allowed the ark to be captured? The ark stands for God's presence. Where did the Philistines first put the ark of God? (In their temple next to their false god, a statue named

Dagon.) What happened to the Dagon statue? (It fell twice and broke.) Why did the Philistines return the ark? (God made them sick.) When the Philistines had it, what do you think they learned about the powerful presence of the one true God?

What did Samuel tell the people? (If you return to the Lord with all your heart, turn from wrong ways, and serve Him only, He will save you.) After they did these things, how did God save them from the Philistines? (God's thunder frightened the Philistines away.) After seeing what happened with the ark, why do you think they fled when they heard God's thunder? God used thunder to show the Israelites and their enemy that He was there in power with the Israelites. What reminds you that God is with you? What reminds you of God's power?

EBENEZER STONE OF HELP

Ebenezer stone means "stone of help." Samuel used it to remind everyone how much God had helped them. Today, we will make our own Ebenezer stones to remember how God is with us and helps us.

1. Give each child a stone.
2. Children think of a specific place and time where God has helped them. (Sports field, classroom, playground, school, home, etc.)
3. Children write name or first letter of that place on the stone.
4. Children share how God was with them and helped them.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

More than 1000 years after Samuel told the Israelites to get rid of certain things and put God first, James gives us the same message. What things do you need to get rid of in your life in order for you to come near to God? Reveal James 4:8. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Ebenezer stone
- W³ BETWEEN THE LINES Journal Entry #37
- OFFERING OF ART: Samuel standing next to the Ebenezer stone
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Protected Snack

GAME: Disappearing Ark of God

CRAFT: "God with Me" Painting

DISCUSSION: Samuel Listened

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Watch Tag, Hot Potato Scramble

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW