



Samuel and the Ark of God

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

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Watches Over Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13

What He has done: God protected the people from their enemies.

Key Verse: 1 Samuel 7:12

THE WAY

Christ Connection: James 4:8

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep." "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

Unit 7: The King Who Watches Over Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
33	Deborah Leads the Israelites, Judges 4:1-9, 13-16	God sent Deborah as a judge to lead Israel.	To understand the role of judges in our lives.
34	Gideon and the Fleece, Judges 6:12-17, 36-40; 7:19-21	God proved He was there to Gideon.	To know God is really with us.
35	Samson and Delilah, Judges 16:4-5, 15-20, 26-30	God restored Samson's strength.	To know God can use us regardless of our circumstances.
36	Ruth and Boaz, Ruth 1:16; 2:12, 20; 4:14-17	God provided Boaz for Ruth to be her kinsman-redeemer.	To understand the role of a redeemer.
37	Samuel and the Ark of God, 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13	God protected the people from their enemies.	To know the power of God's presence.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 145. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for watching over all of us. Help the children understand how to listen to Your voice. Reassure them of Your presence every day. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Ebenezer Stone Hopscotch Relay	Ebenezer stone (Treasure Treat), floor tape or chalk, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Poster
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Lift Up My Eyes" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am with You" "To Him Who Sits on the Throne" "Not by Might" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "How Great Thou Art" "How Great Is Our God" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: Psalm 89:15	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 37 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, one small stone for each child, pencils or permanent markers, highlighters
		Christ Connection: James 4:8	
	Final 5	Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Protected Snack	Fruit or nuts protected by a shell or rind
	Up to 10	Game: Disappearing Ark of God	Dry erase board or poster, marker
	Up to 10	Craft: "God With Me" Painting	White paper, watercolors, water and paint brushes
	Up to 5	Discussion: Samuel Listened	Bible open to 1 Samuel 3:2-13
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Watch Tag	Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Hot Potato Scramble	Sturdy brown paper, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	Date with story title or name printed on card

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: When is a time God has helped you?

GAME: EBENEZER STONE HOPSCOTCH RELAY

Purpose: This hopscotch game with the Ebenezer stone serves as a Bible Memory Verse review.

Supplies: Ebenezer stone (Treasure Treat), floor tape or chalk, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Poster

Prepare: Display Unit 7 Bible Memory verse poster. Use floor tape or chalk to draw 10 squares connected to one another to form a hopscotch court. Number the boxes 1-10.

Teacher Tip: If you have a large group, you may want to have more than one hopscotch court.

Have you ever played hopscotch? (Children respond.) **Let's play a Bible Memory Verse version of hopscotch. Use your Ebenezer stone as your place marker. Today, we will learn about a judge named Samuel who named the first Ebenezer stone. It reminds everyone how the Lord helped His people.**

Directions:

1. Children line up at the base of the hopscotch court.
2. The first child in line tosses the Ebenezer stone onto square #1.
3. With one foot, the child hops over square #1, continues to hop on each square in numeric order, turns around at the end and hops back in reverse numeric order. On the way back, the child stands in square #2, picks up the stone, and hops over square #1 to complete his or her turn.
4. The second child in line tosses the Ebenezer stone onto square #2.
5. Child hops on square #1, over square #2 and continues to hop on each square in numeric order, turns around at the end, and hops back in reverse numeric order. On the way back, the child stands in square #3, picks up the stone, hops over square #2, lands on square #1, and completes his or her turn.
6. Continue with each child tossing the Ebenezer stone and not hopping on the next square, in order from 1 to 10.
7. With each hop, lead the class in chanting one word of the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse. The Bible Memory Verse can be repeated until all the children have played.



The King who watches over us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship our God as the King who watches over us. Today's story is about the ark of God, which had been a special treasure to the Israelites since the days of Moses. The ark of God was also called the ark of the covenant or the ark of the Lord. Inside this golden ark were holy treasures that reminded God's people of His holy presence watching over them. Let's take time now to think about God's holy presence. He is perfect, holy, and He is with us right now. He sits upon His throne and watches over us. As we worship Him, we are standing in His holy presence. Sing: "To Him Who Sits on the Throne."



Read Psalm 89:15.



As we sing, pray and give our offering, let's think about all the ways God has watched over His people, then and now. Collect offering as "How Great Thou Art" is played as background music.

Sing Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Lift Up My Eyes." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's presence.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 7, Lesson 37.



God made His presence known

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned a man named Boaz became the kinsman-redeemer for Ruth and Naomi. A redeemer is someone who pays a price to save someone from something bad. Boaz paid for Naomi's land to save Ruth from a hard life without a husband or children. Who is our Redeemer? (Jesus.) What price did He pay? (Jesus paid with His life to save us.)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **Today, we will learn how God showed His powerful presence to the Israelites and the Philistines when Samuel was the judge over Israel.**



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 7:3-5, 12-13. **Let's see who can Find 1 Samuel 5:1-4 First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

Samuel was leading Israel during the time when the Philistines were taking over the land. The Israelites were not worshiping God with their whole heart- they also worshiped idols. After losing a battle, the Israelite army brought the ark of God to the battlefield in hopes that God would watch over them and save them from their enemy, the Philistines. The ark of God (ark of the covenant or the ark of the Lord) was a golden box that held holy treasures which reminded the Israelites of God's presence. They included the Ten Commandments and a jar of manna. The Israelites gave a loud cheer when they saw the ark of God, but the Philistines defeated the Israelites 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 in that town very sick until they moved the ark. Each town that kept the ark became sick, so after seven months, the Philistines decided to return the ark of God to the Israelites. For twenty more years the Israelites continued to suffer in battles with the Philistines. Then, Samuel told them what to do. Read 1 Samuel 7:3-5.

If a map is available, point out Mizpah, in Israel near Jericho. **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.**



God is with us today

THE WAY

Knowing the Israelites were worshiping other gods, why do you think God allowed the ark to be captured? (Children respond.) **Maybe it was to show the Philistines God is more powerful than their gods. Perhaps it was to show the Israelites God is not like their false gods or good luck idols. The ark stands for God's presence. It is not an idol that brings victory.**

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 the Philistines very sick in each town that kept the ark.) **During the time the Philistines kept the ark, what do you think they learned about the powerful presence of the one true God?** (Children respond.)

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 from the Philistines.) **After they did these things, how did God save them from the Philistines?** (God's thunder was so loud it frightened the Philistines away.) **After seeing what happened with the ark, why do you think the Philistines panicked when they heard God's thunder?** (Children respond.) **What reminds you that God is with you?** (Children respond.) **What reminds you of God's power?** (Children respond.)

EBENEZER STONE OF HELP

Purpose: To use a stone as Samuel did as a reminder of God's presence and help in the past.

Supplies: One small stone or smooth rock for each child, pencils or permanent markers

What was the Ebenezer stone? (It was a stone named for the place where the Israelites brought the ark. God helped the Israelites when the ark was stolen from that place.) **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.**

Directions:

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



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

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? (Children respond.)



FIND IT FIRST > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: James 4:8. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read James 4:8.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is an Ebenezer stone. Ebenezer means "stone of help." Explain to someone how Samuel used a stone to remember how the Lord was with them and helped them. Put your Ebenezer stone in a place that marks a spot where the Lord has helped you.

W³: Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #37. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Samuel standing next to the Ebenezer stone.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Lift Up My Eyes," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: PROTECTED SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack that reminds them of God's protection.

Snack Suggestion: Fruit or nuts protected by a shell or rind

God protected the Israelites. Let's eat a type of snack that God created with its own special kind of protection. Why do you think God made this food with its armor? (To keep animals or weather from hurting it before it was finished growing.) God helped this food by protecting it. Let's talk about times when God has protected you.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When is a time that God protected you?"**

GAME: DISAPPEARING ARK OF GOD

Purpose: This word game reminds children of the shape of the ark of God and of some of the special words in today's story.

Supplies: Dry erase board or poster, marker

In today's story, the Philistines captured the ark of God. The ark of God was a large golden box or chest that held special treasures of the Israelites including the two stone tablets containing the ten commandments and a jar of manna. It had two long poles along its sides so it could be carried. On its cover were two cherubim (winged creatures). In this word game, we will draw an outline of the ark of God. Each time a letter is guessed incorrectly, another part of the ark is erased (a wing, a pole, a side of the box, etc.) Let's see who can guess the word before the ark disappears.

Directions:

1. On the dry erase board, the teacher draws the outline of the ark of God. (Draw 4 lines for the box, two lines for the poles, two creatures with wings on the box cover.)
2. Teacher secretly chooses one word from the story. (Choose a word such as stone, battle, thunder, Ebenezer, Samuel, Israelites, Philistines, etc.)
3. Under the ark, the teacher draws one blank for every letter in that word.
4. Children take turns guessing the letters in the word.
5. Each time a child guesses a letter incorrectly, that child erases one small part of the ark's outline.
6. Each time a child guesses a letter correctly, the teacher writes that letter on the correct blank.
7. The goal is to guess the word correctly before the entire ark disappears.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: "GOD WITH ME" PAINTING

Purpose: To paint a watercolor picture that reminds children of God's presence.

Supplies: Paper, watercolor paints, paintbrush, small cup of water

Prepare: None

Optional: Use chalk, colored pencils, crayons or markers instead of watercolor paint.

The golden ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. At Mizpah, the thunder showed everyone God was there. Think about a place or a thing that reminds you that God is with you. It may be a powerful thunderstorm, a sunset, a starry night, or a beautiful flower. It could be a picture of the ocean or of the place where you like to pray. It might be a Bible, a cross, or anything that reminds you God is with you!

Directions:

1. Children may prefer to first draw an outline of their picture with pencil.
2. Using watercolors, children create a picture to remind them God is with them.

Keep this painting in your home to remind you that God is with you, or give it to a friend or family member and tell them God is with them.

DISCUSSION: SAMUEL LISTENED

Purpose: To see how Samuel began to serve God as a child.

Supplies: Bible open to 1 Samuel 3:2-13

Samuel was a judge and prophet for Israel for many years. Do you know when he started serving the Lord? (When he was a boy.)

Let's read 1 Samuel 3:2-10 to see the amazing way God told Samuel His plan for Samuel's life. (Read 1 Samuel 3:2-10.) **Most of us don't get to hear God's "out loud" voice, but there are many other ways God speaks to us: through the Bible, through other people, even through nature. Have you ever felt like God was talking to you? Where were you? What did you feel God was saying to you?** (Children respond.)

What do you think God told Samuel? (Children respond.) **Let's read 1 Samuel 3:11-13 to find out.** Read 1 Samuel 3:11-13. **Eli was the priest. Why was God going to judge Eli harshly?** (Eli let God's people and his own sons do wrong in God's eyes.) **Because Samuel was God's prophet, he had to speak God's truth to Eli. Has someone ever had to tell you that you were doing wrong in God's eyes?** (Children respond.) **Ask God to speak to you in some way this week!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." "He who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep."
"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore." Psalm 121:1, 2, 4, 8

GAME: WATCH TAG

Purpose: Children learn and practice the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse by playing a game of tag.

Supplies: Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster

Just as God watches over you to help you, the Watchman in this game helps you learn each part of the Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Point out that each sentence of the Bible Memory Verse is a verse. Say all four verses together.
2. Choose one child to be "the Watchman." The Watchman chases and tags other children.
3. Tagged children must freeze and say one of the four sentences of the Bible Memory Verse to play again. By the end of the game, encourage children to say the sentences from the Bible Memory Verse without looking at the poster.
4. Children take turns as the Watchman.

GAME: HOT POTATO SCRAMBLE

Purpose: In this variation of the Hot Potato game, children quickly pass their paper potatoes around the circle. When the music stops, the children put the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse in order.

Supplies: Sturdy brown paper, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Lift Up My Eyes," CD player, Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: From sturdy brown paper, cut 8 potato shapes. Divide the Unit 7 Bible Memory Verse into eight phrases. Write a different phrase on each potato. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. For groups smaller than 8, cut 4 potatoes and put a verse on each potato.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a large circle.
2. Repeat the Bible Memory Verse several times together.
3. Scramble the order of the paper potatoes ("hot potatoes").
4. Give a hot potato to 8 of the children in the circle.
5. Teacher begins chanting or playing the Bible Memory Verse song.
6. As if the potatoes are too hot to hold, each child quickly passes hot potatoes to the child on their left and receives hot potatoes from the right. Continue passing potatoes until the song is stopped.
7. When the teacher stops the song, instruct the children who have a hot potato to race to the center of the circle and place their hot potatoes in the correct order.
8. If time allows, repeat steps 3-8.

Teacher Tip: For non-readers, replace key words such as eyes, hills, watches, sleep, and earth with drawings or pictures. Another option would be to use four potatoes and write the number 1, 2, 3, or 4 on each potato. When the music stops, the children with the potatoes recite the four verses in order.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) What happened to Samson each time before he showed amazing strength? (The Spirit of the Lord came upon Samson in power.) **At that time, who was the enemy of the Israelites?** (The Philistines.) **Who was the Philistine woman that learned the secret of Samson's strength?** (Delilah.)

Ruth (There is no specific date recorded, but Ruth lived during the time when judges ruled over Israel.) **What was the promise Ruth made to Naomi?** (Where you go, I will go., your people will be my people, your God, my God.) **How did God bless Ruth?** (He made her one of His people, gave her a kinsman-redeemer who became her husband named Boaz, and gave her a son named Obed.)

Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) God called to Samuel when he was a boy in the temple. God chose him to be a prophet and judge for the Israelites. **What did the Philistines capture while Samuel was judge?** (The ark of God.) **Why did they return it?** (Their Dagon statue broke and their people became sick when the ark was in their town.) **What did Samuel name the stone used to remember God's help?** (Ebenezer stone.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

Teacher Tip: To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.