



# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO ME?

What did the ark represent to the people of Israel?

- A) Victory.
- B) Their guilt.
- C) God's presence.
- D) All of these.



What was wrong with taking the ark into battle?

- A) God did not want to go with them.
- B) They were manipulating God's presence.
- C) They were disrespecting God.
- D) They were assuming God's blessing.



What does that tell us about their relationship to God?

- A) They loved Him.
- B) They followed Him.
- C) They had forgotten Him.
- D) They didn't understand His covenant.

When the Philistines returned the ark, how did the Israelites respond? (1 Samuel 7:1-13.)

- A) With rebellion.
- B) With worship.
- C) With confession.
- D) With obedience.



Can you think of a time when you felt you had lost God's presence and power in your life? If so, what did you do?

Compare Israel's response to the attack in 1 Samuel 4 with that in 1 Samuel 7. Can you think of a time when you have been victorious in a spiritual attack? Yes [ ] No [ ]

What was the role of worship and confession in your life at that time?

Obedience to God doesn't always mean that things will go the way we expect. What is His promise to us in 2 Thessalonians 3:3?

### Behind the Scenes

The Ten Commandments were kept inside the ark. Which commandments were broken in this story? Explain:



# Samuel and the Ark of God BETWEEN THE LINES

Take some time to read the story of Samuel and the Ark in 1 Samuel 5:1-4; 6:21-7:5, 12-13.



## WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Describe the ark of God and how it was transported. (See Exodus 25:10-15.)

What was kept inside the ark? (See Deuteronomy 31:26.)

What amazing miracles had the children of Israel seen involving the ark? (See Joshua 3:14-17 and 6:1-7, 20.)

What did the Israelites attempt to do with the ark at Ebenezer, and what was the result? (1 Samuel 4:1-4.)



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Why did the Israelites take the ark into battle against the Philistines? (1 Samuel 4:1-4.)

Why do you think the Philistines took the ark, and why were they afraid once they had it? (1 Samuel 5:1-12.)

After the ark was returned to Ebenezer, how did the people of Israel return to the one true God? (1 Samuel 7:1-6.)

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