



**Worship Illustration: Script  
King City Chronicles  
Kings & Kingdoms Part 2: Judges through Esther  
Unit 7, Lesson 37**

# Samuel and the Ark of God

**1 Samuel 5:1-6, 11; 6:13; 7:3-8, 12-13**

**Running time:** Approximately 6 minutes

**Setting:** The set for Units 7-10 is designed to look like the outside of the King City Herald, a large newspaper building circa 1940's. A door leads to the office. A phone booth provides the place for the superheroes' quick costume changes. The center panel can be removed to reveal the superheroes "Secret Lab," filled with screens and gadgets (similar to Batman's Bat Cave), where the heroes watch over the city. There is a useable fire escape with a door and a ladder down to ground level. There is a ramp on stage right. For added interest, build windows, entrances, and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

**Characters:** Scoop Gibson is a street-wise, savvy reporter who hides his secret identity as superhero "Scripture Guy." Kasey Carter is a young, college-educated reporter (can be male or female) whose secret identity is superhero "Kingdom Crusader." The Philistine is an evil enemy who wants to take over King City (appears on video or on a side stage).

**Plot:** Scripture Guy teaches Kingdom Crusader how God protected the Israelites from their enemies, the Philistines. We learn about the power of God's presence.

**Costumes:** Fedoras, 1940's Zoot suits (high-waist, wide-legged, tight-cuffed pegged trousers, long coat with wide lapels and wide padded shoulders) and/or 1940's dress suit (padded shoulders, thin belt), Superhero costumes worn underneath (cap, face masks, body suit, tights, etc.), "SG" emblem on Scripture Guy costume, "KC" emblem on Kingdom Crusader costume, Philistine: black robe, red mask, Princess Leia (Star Wars) wig.

**Props:** Note pad, pencil, ray gun, Bible, if Philistine is live actor: electric generator and large stone

**Sound effects (SFX):**

1. Intro/Outro music
2. Ominous music theme
3. Heroic music
4. Newspaper box: "Good news" or other triumphant song clip. Music plays when box is opened to reveal the Bible.
5. Freeze ray sound
6. Zap sound
7. Radio static
8. Distant sirens
9. Telephone ring

**Visual effects (VFX):**

1. Video Intro featuring superheroes is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Fallback slide reads "King City Chronicles"
3. A newspaper box holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
4. Philistine video available at ResourceWell.org
5. Scripture Slide: **"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the LORD helped us.'" 1 Samuel 7:12**
6. Strobes, moving lights
7. Beacon with cross shape in the center

**Adaptations:**

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form at ResourceWell.org

**King City Chronicles**

**Lesson 37**

**Samuel and the Ark of God**

**1 Samuel 5:1-6, 11; 6:13; 7:3-8, 12-13**

**Voiceover** (VFX: short video intro)

**Dateline: King City, a city devoted to the glory of God. But in her dark underbelly there are villains gathering...evil men who seek to steal God's glory! Will King City find her hero? Can she be saved and restored to her former glory? For the answer to these questions and more, tune in every week to the King City Chronicles!**

**Kasey** (Enters at office door.)

**Hey Scoop, Scoop! Where are you?**

**Scoop** (Taking notes on fire escape.)

**Up here. I'm working on the latest top story.**

**Kasey**

**Is it about how the Redeem Team defeated the Philistine once again?**

**Scoop**

**That's right, Kasey. The Redeem Team will always come out on top because they have God on their side!**

**Kasey**

**And they stand for what is right, watching over King City just like God watches over us!**

**Scoop**

**You're catching on, kiddo!**

**Kasey**

**Hey Scoop, do you ever worry that one day the Philistine might win?**

**Scoop**

**I never worry because I know God always watches over us. The bad guys may win a battle or two, but God will win the final victory.**

**Kasey**

**Yes, but the Philistine is always trying to take our power!**

**Scoop**

**He wouldn't know what to do with the power if he got it, just like the Philistines in the Old Testament. They stole the golden ark of God from the Israelites.**

**Kasey**

**When did that happen?**

**Scoop**

**A good reporter has to do her own research, kid. You can look it up in the first book of Samuel. I gotta' get this story to the editor's desk. See ya'. (exit)**

**Kingdom Crusader**

**Scoop's right. I'd better take a look at the first book of Samuel. I'll get out the Good News, right now. (He opens box. SFX: "Good News," VFX: Beam of light shines from box.) Wow, this is an amazing story! Samuel was a prophet and judge sent by God during the time the judges ruled over Israel. The Philistines attacked Israel and stole the ark of God. Whoa, the ark was the box that held the Ten Commandments and other holy treasures. God's people must have been so sad to lose something so special. But look at this—the Philistines put it in their own temple next to the statue of their false god, Dagon. In the morning, the Dagon statue had fallen on his face before the ark of God. The Philistines picked Dagon up and put it back, but the next morning it was back on the ground. Only, this time, the head and hands of the statue were broken off and lying on the threshold. Yikes, I guess it's pretty obvious that only the one true God has power.**

**Scripture Guy** (Enters at office door.)

**Even the Philistines learned that.**

**Kasey**

**Scripture Guy! Did you hear about the power our God has?**

**Scripture Guy**

**Oh yes, after breaking their statue, He made them so sick that the Philistine people begged their leaders to "Send the ark of the God of Israel away; let it go back to its own place..."**

**Kasey**

**Did they send it back?**

**Scripture Guy**

**They sure did! Even Israel's enemies knew not to fight against such a powerful God!**

**Kasey**

**I'll bet the Israelites were excited to get the ark of God back! Everyone must have been so happy!**

**Scripture Guy**

**Everyone except the Philistines—they set out to attack Israel again.**

**Kasey**

**Again? Didn't they learn that no one can defeat our God?**

**Scripture Guy**

**I guess they weren't paying attention. Even the Israelites had a hard time remembering to trust God's power.**

**Kasey**

**But God had rescued them so many times!**

**Scripture Guy**

**True, but the Israelites had cried out to God for 20 years while the Philistines made their life hard. Finally, Samuel said if they would return to God with all their hearts, and promise to serve Him only, then God would protect them from the Philistines.**

**Kasey**

**What happened? Did God help them?**

**Scripture Guy**

**Yes, God sent thunder that was so loud that the Philistines panicked and the Israelites chased them away. As always, God was watching over His people!**

**Kasey**

**What a victory! I bet they really celebrated after that!**

**Scripture Guy** (SFX: Scripture slide)

**They sure did! The Bible says: "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, 'Thus far has the LORD helped us.'"**

**Kasey**

**Wow! I feel silly that I ever worried about the Philistine. I should have remembered the power of God's presence. God has the power to protect us from our enemies. That silly Philistine has no power at all!**

(VFX: Philistine on video or side stage in front of an electric generator.)

**Philistine**

**No Power?! No power?! I am the Philistine! I have all the power!**

(Kasey exits into phone booth.)

**Scripture Guy**

**Philistine, what have you got there?**

**Philistine**

**Oh, wouldn't you like to know, Scripture Guy?! I have in my hands the central power converter for the entire city! How do you like me now, Super Dodo?**

**Scripture Guy**

**Put that down, Philistine! King City is God's city and you are not equipped to handle God's power!**

### **Philistine**

**Well, I'm handling it. Look at me handle it. I'm touching it. I'm touching it! Na-na-na boo-boo!** (sings) **Can't touch this! Can't touch this! Hammer time!** (Power converter shocks him. VFX: light flash) **Ouch! That hurt!** (Power converter shocks him. VFX: light flash) **Ouch! Stop that!** (Power converter shocks him repeatedly. VFX: light flashes) **Ow, ow, ow! Ouch, that really hurts! And it still hurts. Oh, now what? Not a stone!** (VFX: large stone drops on him) **Oh, help me, Scripture Guy...please?**

### **Scripture Guy**

**It looks like I'd better get over there and save the Philistine from himself.** (SFX: "Heroic music") **When will people learn God's power is meant to be used for His glory? This is a job for Scripture Guy! I give everything to honor our King!** (Exits through audience.)

**Kingdom Crusader** (Exits through phone booth.) **Wait for me, Scripture Guy! I want to help! Redeem Team to the rescue!** (exit) (VFX: strobes, moving lights, beacon light)