



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
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: Ruth was blessed by God.

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

When the ark of God was brought into the Israelite army's camp, they gave a great shout. Why do you think the Philistines wanted to capture the ark of God?

What happened to the Philistines' Dagon statue when they placed the ark of God near it? (It fell twice and broke.) Why did the Philistines return the ark? (God made them very sick in each town that kept the ark.)

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 frightened the Philistines away.) After seeing what happened with the ark, why do you think they ran? 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:

When you are close with God, you will see His power working in your life. Ask God to help you know He is with you. He can do more than you can ask or imagine! Reveal Ephesians 3:20. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

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

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Ebenezer stone
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- 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