

brite* Parent Information

Unit 5-Lesson 1: Travels of the Ark (1 Samuel 4-6)

brite* Idea: God is all-powerful; He alone is God.

In this story, Eli's sons took the ark of the covenant (the special box God had the Israelites build that held the stone tablets and was a reminder of God's presence and favor for Israel) into battle to try to win after being defeated by the Philistines. The ark was stolen, and the Philistines kept it for seven months before returning it to the Israelites. Through this story, we learn that God is all-powerful and we can trust that He has a plan for us, even when we are tempted to take shortcuts or do things our own way.

He We Me Questions

This story helps us address 3 kinds of questions that kids may have. They are our He (God question), our We (people question), and our Me (purpose question) for this week.

- Our **He** Question about God: What does How can God be all-powerful?
 - We learned that God is all-powerful, He alone is God, and nothing is stronger than Him.
- Our **We** Question about people: Why shouldn't we do things our own way?
 - We learned that because God is all-powerful, we can trust that He has a plan for us.
- Our **Me** Question about our purpose: What can I do when I'm tempted to take shortcuts or do things my own way?
 - We learned that when we are tempted to take shortcuts or do things our own way, we can remember the story of the ark and how God showed people they should respect His power and His ways.

Memory Verse

Psalm 9:9-10— *The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek You.*

Discipleship Conversation Starters For Parents

1. Pretend your family is moving and decides to put three items in a box that will help remember how much everyone loved living there. What three items do you want in this box?
2. What three items would you put in a box to remember what you know or love about God?
3. How could remembering what is true about God help you when you are happy, sad or afraid?

Encouragement for parents:

How should we face parenting battles?

Philistine and Israelite armies avoided the high cost of battle by pitting its strongest warriors against each other. In parenting battles, do you fight by powering up? King David shows us the best, most effective way to fight any battle. First, pause and ask God if this is a battle to fight or not. If it is, choose words and actions aligned with God's heart, mercy and forgiveness, ending the battle by giving God the glory instead of taking glory ourselves. Great parenting plan!.