

Eli's Sons Disobeyed God (1 Samuel 4–6)



Dear families,

The ark of the covenant was a physical reminder of God's tangible presence with his people. Rather than treat the ark with reverence, they treated the ark as a sort of good luck charm. In our Bible story today, we see what happened when the ark was taken from the people of Israel.

Except in times of war or when the people of Israel were on the move, the ark was kept in the holy of holies in the tabernacle. Once a year, a priest would approach the ark and sprinkle blood on the mercy seat on the ark's top for the forgiveness of the people's sins. The ark and what it represented was temporal and pointed forward to the substantial reality of God who would come and live among His people.

When we realize that Jesus lived a perfect life and then died in our place, we see that Jesus is better than the ark because He is always with us. We are filled with thankfulness.

Jesus is better than the bulls and goats whose blood was sprinkled on the ark because His sacrifice is once, for all time (Heb. 10:10). This should move us to worship.

Finally, we should be humbled and filled with confidence when we realize that Jesus, who lived perfectly in human flesh, died and then was resurrected and ascended into heaven where He, in His glorified human body, prays for us.

This should give you confidence in this life that no matter what we face, God's Holy Spirit is with us. The Son is interceding for us. Because Jesus stands between the Father and us, we can "approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us at the proper time" (Heb. 4:16). We can go before God daily because of Jesus.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God sent His Son, Jesus, to be with His people forever.
- **Younger Preschool:** The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Many years later God sent His very own Son, Jesus, to be with His people.
- **Older Preschool:** The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Many years later, God gave His people something even better to remind them that He was with them. God sent His Son, Jesus. One of Jesus' names is *Immanuel*, which means "God with us."
- **Kids:** The ark of God reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Years later, God gave His people something greater than a sign that He was with them; God gave them His Son, Jesus—God in the flesh. One of Jesus' names is *Immanuel*, which means "God with us."

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** What is the punishment for sin? The punishment for sin is separation from God.
- **Older Preschool:** What is the punishment for sin? The punishment for sin is death.
- **Kids:** What is the fair payment for sin? The fair payment for sin is death.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God gives life forever. Romans 6:23
- **Younger Preschool:** God gives life forever. Romans 6:23
- **Older Preschool:** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
- **Kids:** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23

**** Next week:** God Takes Sin Seriously (Ephesians 2)