

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<<

ELI'S SONS DISOBEYED GOD

1 SAMUEL 4-6



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- **Mornings:** Worship God as the one true God! Praise Him because there is no one like Him. How do you see God's superiority in this week's Bible story? What other stories in the Bible show us that He is the one true God?
- **Evenings:** Thank God for His power. Thank Him for the comfort and confidence that comes with knowing the Almighty God. How does this Bible story show us the one-of-a-kind power of God? How does God's ultimate power help us to trust in Him?

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY POINTS TO JESUS:

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:

What is the fair payment for sin?

The fair payment for sin is death.

»» CONTINUE THE STORY AT HOME

1 SAMUEL 4-6

Dear Families,

On April 21, 1980, Rosie Ruiz was declared the winner of the women's division of the Boston Marathon. The only problem was that Rosie Ruiz was a fraud. Instead of running the 26.2-mile race, Ruiz waited in the crowd and sneaked onto the road to run only the final mile of the race. She was disqualified, and the real winner was crowned. Clearly, she had no business running the race with the real marathoners!

After the Philistines defeated the Israelites, they captured the ark of the covenant and took it back to their city. The ark was a symbol of God's presence, but the Philistines placed it beside the statue of Dagon, a false god they worshiped. The next morning, the statue of Dagon had fallen on its face in front of the ark. The Philistines set the statue up again, but it fell again and broke the head and hands clean off! God made it clear that He is the one true God and that Dagon—or any false god—has no business standing next to Him!

God promised to be with His people. This promise gives comfort to know that God is near, but it also gives courage to know that He is the one true God who has all power, authority, and control. There is no one like Him! One day, every creature in heaven and on earth will fall face down—just like the statue of Dagon—and worship Him.

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."

Pray: *There is no one like You, God! You have sent Jesus to be God with us. Help us to believe in Him so that we can experience the comfort and courage of knowing You are always with us.*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES<<<

For Fun: Go for a walk or run as a family. Allow kids to pick the route. Talk about God's promise to be with Joshua wherever he went. Ask kids how God has extended that promise to anyone who believes in Jesus. How is God with them wherever they go?

To Serve: Volunteer to plant flowers or complete another beautification project at your local church. Talk with kids about how God might use the church to draw people to Himself. Be sure to explain that God's presence is not limited to the church building, but the building can still be a reminder for the community of God's presence and activity.



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23