

**K-5th Grade**  
**The Ark was Captured**  
*Discussion Questions*

**Session Title:** The Ark Was Captured

**Bible Passage:** 1 Samuel 4–6

**Story Point:** God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God.

**Key Passage:** Jeremiah 10:6

**Big Picture Question:** Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.

**K - 5TH GRADE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to 1 Samuel 4. Remind kids that like Deborah, Samson, and Gideon; Samuel was a judge over Israel. Samuel lived during a time when Israel was often fighting with the Philistines.

Read aloud 1 Samuel 4:3.

Say • When the Israelites lost the battle against the Philistines, they decided to take the ark of God to the battlefield. They treated the ark like a good luck charm. But the Philistines captured the ark of God, and they carried it to the city of Ashdod. God brought down the Philistines' false god, and He punished the people living in the city. God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God. Finally, the Philistines returned the ark back to the Israelites.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What was wrong with the Israelites' battle strategy? Emphasize that the ark was a reminder of God's presence, but God did not live in it—you can't put God into a box! We can ask God for things we want or need, but we cannot make God do what we want. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 115:3.)

Do you always consult God when you want something to happen a certain way? Why or why not? Lead kids to recognize that God is in control of all things. He does everything for His glory and our good. If something happens in a way we do not desire or expect, we can still trust God even when we don't understand. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 14:13.)

How is God with us today? Remind kids that God gave us His Son, Jesus—God in the flesh. One of Jesus' names is Immanuel, which means "God with us." When Jesus went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to live inside believers. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 3:16.)

**Journal and prayer**

Give a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself? Whom can I tell about this story?