

# Preschool

## The Ark was Captured

### *Activities & Crafts*

**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.

### **Build a box**

Write the number *10* on a sheet of paper. Roll up the paper. Guide preschoolers to use blocks to build a box around the paper. When the box is built, ask a preschooler to remove the paper, unroll it, and identify the number written on it.

Say • In today's Bible story, we will hear about the ark of God. The ark of God was a beautiful box from the tabernacle. God gave Moses special instructions on how to make the ark, and the people followed them exactly. Inside the ark were the two stone tablets on which God wrote the Ten Commandments. The ark reminded the people that God was with them. Listen to what happened to the ark in today's Bible story.

### **Outline and fill shapes**

Tape an outline of a square, rectangle, and triangle on the floor. Invite preschoolers to outline each shape with interlocking blocks, chenille stems, craft sticks, or pom-poms. Ask preschoolers to identify which two shapes resemble a box. Prompt preschoolers to find items in the room which fit inside each shape.

Say •When God's people built the tabernacle, God told them to make a box covered inside and out with gold. This beautiful box was called the ark of God. The ark reminded the Israelites that God was with them. Only the priests were allowed to move the ark, and even they could not touch it. They used gold poles to carry it. In today's Bible story, the priests took the ark to a place where God did not want it. Listen to the Bible story to find out where.

### **Sing "My God Is So Big"**

Lead preschoolers in singing "My God Is So Big" with the appropriate motions. If you are unfamiliar with the song or motions, look them up online before the session. Show preschoolers the key passage marked in a Bible.

Say • God made the Philistine's statue of Dagon fall down in front of the ark, and God made the people sick in the Philistine cities where the ark of God was kept. God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God. There is no one like our God! *Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.*

### **Knock down a match**

Print and cut apart the "Ark Matching Cards." Tape each card to a block. Set up the blocks side by side about six inches apart. Guide a child to roll the ball and knock over one block. Show the picture

that was knocked over, and retell portions of the Bible story that apply. Look at the remaining blocks and locate the matching picture. Challenge a child to roll the ball and knock down the matching block. Continue talking about the Bible story as boys and girls continue to set up and knock down blocks. Talk about this session's Christ Connection when the blocks that picture Jesus are knocked down.

Say • The Philistines' statue of their false god fell over when the Israelites' ark of God was nearby. God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God. They sent the ark back to the Israelites along with gifts of gold because the Philistines were afraid of God's power. Many years later, Jesus lived on earth as a man. God sent Jesus so we would no longer need a beautiful box to remind us God is with us.

Paint on metallic paper

Wrap cardboard pieces in sheets of foil. Secure the edges on the back with tape. Provide washable paint and cotton swabs for preschoolers to paint on the foil. Encourage preschoolers to paint a picture of themselves with Jesus.

Say • God's ark was covered inside and out with shiny gold. It was beautiful. 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." *Is anything greater than God? No, God is greater than everything.*