

## Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

### Primary Lesson One Hundred Eleven: The Ark of the Covenant is Returned

- Overview** Bible Facts & Songs: Bible Drill  
Bible Reading & Discussion: Judges 16:23; I Samuel 5:1-7:2  
Bible Memory & Craft: Questions about the Holy Spirit  
Learning Objectives: (1) The Philistines placed the Ark of God in the house of their god Dagon. (2) The statue of Dagon was found fallen and decapitated before the Ark of God. (3) The Ark of God was moved to various locations and the hand of the Lord was heavy against the people in each location. (4) The Philistines sent the Ark of God back to the Israelites using a test that proved that it was God's hand that struck the people. (5) The Israelites rejoiced at the return of the Ark and offered burnt sacrifices to the Lord. (6) For some twenty years the Ark of the Lord was lodged at the home of Abinadab. (7) Only the one true God is worthy of all glory and worship.
- Opening** Get students' attention by using a pre-planned silence signal.  
Have students sit in rows or a semi-circle facing you.  
Open in prayer asking God's blessing upon the time.
- Bible Facts** Materials: Bibles for students to use  
5-10 minutes Strategies: Bible Drill  
Instructions: Students hold closed Bibles up over head. The leader then calls out a Scripture reference – the book, the chapter and the verse. When the leader says, "Charge," the students look for the reference in their Bibles. When the reference is found, students stand and read it.
- Bible Reading** Materials: Bibles for students to use  
15 minutes Strategies: Missing Word Reading  
Scripture: Judges 16:23; I Samuel 5:1-7:2  
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Leader reads aloud expressively. Whenever leader pauses and holds up one finger, students say, "Ark of God." Whenever leader pauses and holds up two fingers, students say, "Ark of the Lord." Leader should mark passage ahead of time and explain to students that these are simply other names for the Ark of the Covenant.
- Bible Discussion** Materials: Bean bag, word poster #3 "Work of the Holy Spirit," add "Fruit Producer"  
10 minutes Strategy: Beanbag Toss  
Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. The leader asks a question and then tosses a beanbag to someone who must answer and then toss the beanbag back to the leader.  
Questions:
- Where did the Philistines take the Ark of God after they captured it? (The house of Dagon)
  - Who was Dagon? (A god of the Philistines)
  - In what position did the Philistines find the statue of Dagon the first morning after the Ark of God was placed in the house of Dagon? (Face downward on the ground before the Ark)
  - The next day, what had happened to the Dagon statue? (Its head and hands had been cut off.)
  - With what did the Lord afflict the people? (Tumors)
  - The Ark of God was moved to different locations. In each location the people were afflicted with tumors until there was a deathly panic among the people. How long was the Ark of the Lord in the country of the Philistines? (Seven months)
  - Finally the Philistines decided to return the Ark to Israel. What did they send along as a guilt offering? (Golden tumors and golden mice)
  - The Philistine priests and diviners said, "...give blank to the God of Israel. Perhaps he will lighten his hand from off you and your gods and your land..." (Glory)
  - About 400 years had passed since Israel left Egypt and came into the Promised Land. However, the Philistines knew about the plagues that God had sent to Egypt. The priests and diviners said, "Why should you harden your blank as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their blank? (Hearts)

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- As a test to determine whether or not the tumors had come from the hand of God or had come by coincidence, the Philistines sent the Ark of God back to Israel on a cart pulled by milk cows whose calves were at home. Normally, the cows would go to their calves rather than following the road to Israel. Where did the cows go? (Followed the road to Beth-shemesh)
- The people of Beth-shemesh rejoiced when the Ark of the Lord was returned. What did the Levites do? (Offered burnt sacrifices)
- The Ark of the Lord was taken to the house of Abinadab and his son Eleazar was consecrated to have charge of it. How long did the Ark stay there? (Some 20 years)

Transitional Thought: Because of the sin of Israel, God allowed the Philistines to defeat Israel and to capture the Ark of the Covenant. However, God, through the humiliation of Dagon and the affliction of the people, made it clear to the Philistines that He, the Lord God of Israel, is the one and only God worthy of glory. When God returned to Israel the Ark of the Covenant, the visual sign of God's presence in Israel, the Israelites worshipped God. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, God has overcome the consequences of sin, which is eternal death and has provided believers with His presence through the Holy Spirit. This one and only true God is worthy of all glory and worship.

Show students word poster #3 and have them act out the words – Work of the Holy Spirit: Prayer Interpreter (place hands at heart and then extend toward heaven); Convictor of Sin (turn two thumbs down and then point emphatically); Spiritual Life Giver (place hand over heart with fingers in the shape of an "L"); Seal of Salvation (clap fist of one hand to palm of other hand as though "stamping" with an ink stamp.); Fruit Producer (act as though arms are tree branches)

**Group Prayer** Through prayer, praise God for Who He is, for the work of Jesus Christ, and for the work of the Holy Spirit.

**Bible Memory** Materials: White board with markers and eraser  
10-15 minutes Strategy: Hand Motions  
Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on it:

*Question: What does the Holy Spirit produce in the life of a believer?*

*Answer: The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit.*

*Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23a*

Simple hand motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students repeat the passage a few times using words and hand motions from memory.

**Bible Craft** Materials: Paper, advertisers, scissors, glue, markers, sample project  
As time allows Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Collage  
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students cut pictures of fruit from grocery store advertisers. Have students glue the pictures onto paper and write the nine words depicting the Fruit of the Spirit. Discuss the growth and goodness of fruit compared to the growth and goodness of the Fruit of the Spirit in the life of a believer.

**Closing** Have students assist with clean-up.  
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.  
Close in prayer & dismiss.

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**The Work of the Holy Spirit**

*Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do in prayer?*

*Answer: The Holy Spirit intercedes, interpreting the believers' prayer.*

*Verse: "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26*

*Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do concerning sin?*

*Answer: The Holy Spirit convicts people of their sin.*

*Verse: "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin...because they do not believe in me." John 16:8-9*

*Question: What work does the Holy Spirit do in salvation?*

*Answer: The Holy Spirit gives life to believers in Jesus Christ.*

*Verse: "It is the Spirit who gives life..." John 6:63a*

*Question: What is a work that the Holy Spirit does for believers?*

*Answer: The Holy Spirit seals believers until Christ's return.*

*Verse: "...when you heard...the gospel of our salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance..." Ephesians 1:13-14*

*Question: What does the Holy Spirit produce in the life of a believer?*

*Answer: The Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit.*

*Verse: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..." Galatians 5:22-23a*