

THE ARK RETURNED TO ISRAEL

1 Samuel 6-7:2

1 Samuel 6

¹When the ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory seven months, ²the Philistines called for the priests and the diviners and said, “What shall we do with the ark of the LORD? Tell us how we should send it back to its place.”

³They answered, “If you return the ark of the god of Israel, do not send it away empty, but by all means send a guilt offering to him. Then you will be healed, and you will know why his hand has not been lifted from you.”

⁴The Philistines asked, “What guilt offering should we send to him?”

They replied, “Five gold tumors and five gold rats, according to the number of the Philistine rulers, because the same plague has struck both you and your rulers. ⁵Make models of the tumors and of the rats that are destroying the country, and pay honor to Israel’s god. Perhaps he will lift his hand from you and your gods and your land. ⁶Why do you harden your hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaoh did? When he treated them harshly, did they not send the Israelites out so they could go on their way?

⁷“Now then, get a new cart ready, with two cows that have calved and have never been yoked. Hitch the cows to the cart, but take their calves away and pen them up. ⁸Take the ark of the LORD and put it on the cart, and in a chest beside it put the gold objects you are sending back to him as a guilt offering. Send it on its way, ⁹but keep watching it. If it goes up to its own territory, toward Beth Shemesh, then the LORD has brought this great disaster on us. But if it does not, then we will know that it was not his hand that struck us and that it happened to us by chance.”

¹⁰So they did this. They took two such cows and hitched them to the cart and penned up their calves.

¹¹They placed the ark of the LORD on the cart and along with it the chest containing the gold rats and the models of the tumors. ¹²Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh, keeping on the road and lowing all the way; they did not turn to the right or to the left. The rulers of the Philistines followed them as far as the border of Beth Shemesh.

¹³Now the people of Beth Shemesh were harvesting their wheat in the valley, and when they looked up and saw the ark, they rejoiced at the sight.

¹⁴The cart came to the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh, and there it stopped beside a large rock. The people chopped up the wood of the cart and sacrificed the cows as a burnt offering to the LORD. ¹⁵The Levites took down the ark of the LORD, together with the chest containing the gold objects, and placed them on the large rock. On that day the people of Beth Shemesh offered burnt offerings and made sacrifices to the LORD. ¹⁶The five rulers of the Philistines saw all this and then returned that same day to Ekron.

¹⁷These are the gold tumors the Philistines sent as a guilt offering to the LORD—one each for Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron. ¹⁸And the number of the gold rats was according to the number of Philistine towns belonging to the five rulers—the fortified towns with their country villages. The large rock, on which they set the ark of the LORD, is a witness to this day in the field of Joshua of Beth Shemesh.

¹⁹But God struck down some of the men of Beth Shemesh, putting seventy of them to death because they had looked into the ark of the LORD. The people mourned because of the heavy blow the LORD had dealt them, ²⁰and the men of Beth Shemesh asked, “Who can stand in the presence of the LORD, this holy God? To whom will the ark go up from here?”

²¹Then they sent messengers to the people of Kiriath Jearim, saying, “The Philistines have returned the ark of the LORD. Come down and take it up to your place.”

1 Samuel 7

¹So the men of Kiriath Jearim came and took up the ark of the LORD. They took it to Abinadab’s house on the hill and consecrated Eleazar his son to guard the ark of the LORD. ²It was a long time, twenty years in all, that the ark remained at Kiriath Jearim, and all the people of Israel mourned and sought after the LORD.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) How did the Philistines send the ark back to the Israelites?
5		2.) Why did the Philistines send a guilt offering with the ark?
5		3.) What happened when some of the Israelites looked into the ark?
5		4.) Why do you think the Philistines sent the ark back to the Israelites?

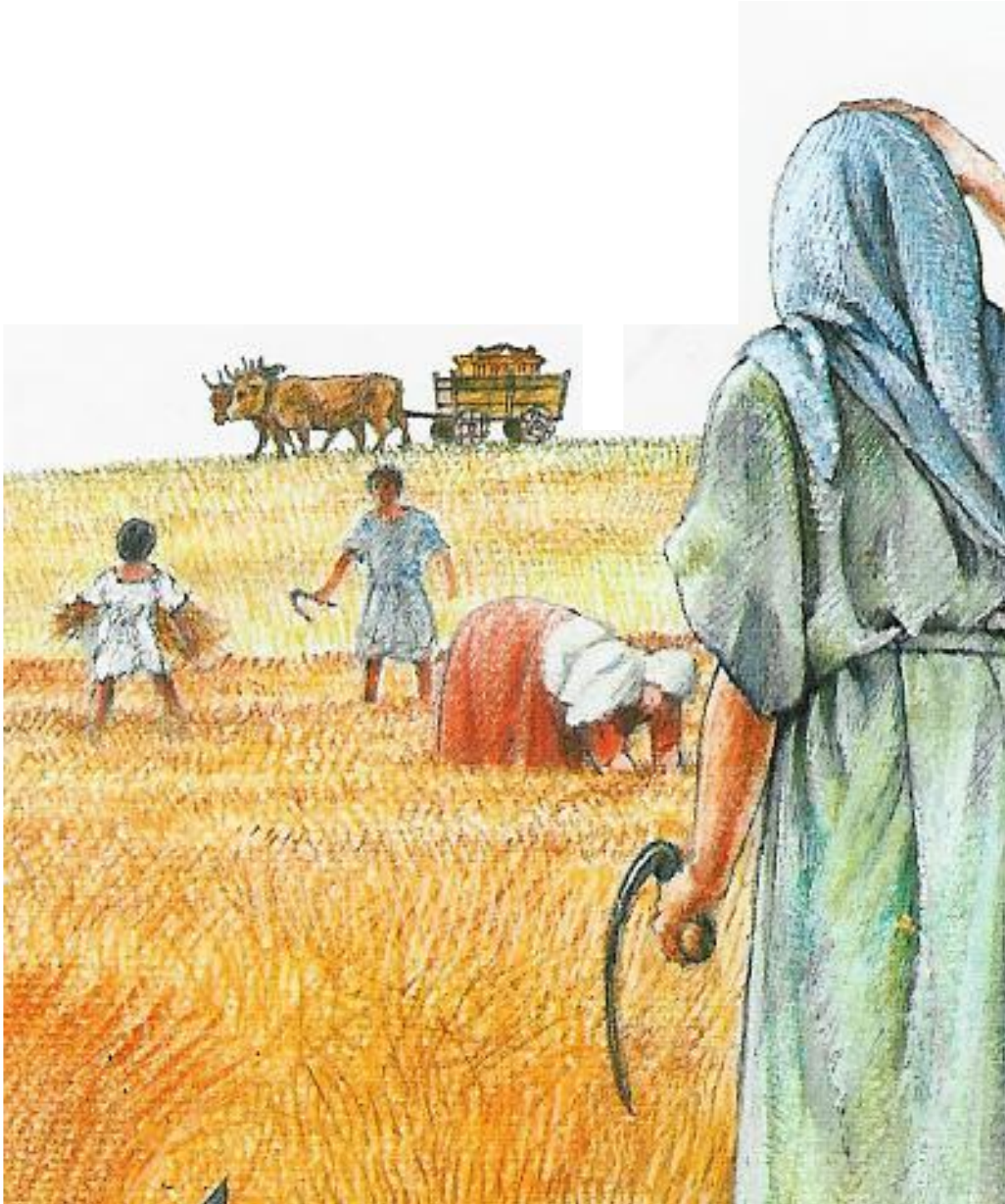
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		"For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods." Psalm 95:3

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ____/____/____

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THE ARK RETURNED TO ISRAEL

1 Samuel 6-7:2



The Israelites cut up the wood cart that the ark was on and then sacrificed the cows

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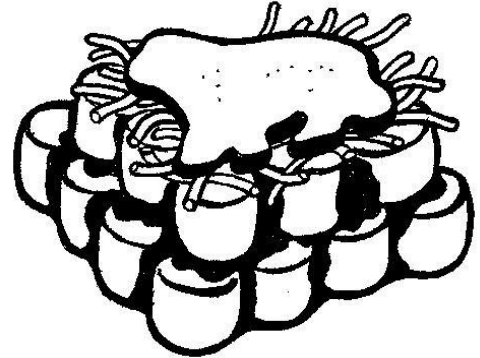
1 Samuel 6-7:2

CRAFT/ACTIVITY: MARSHMALLOW ALTARS

Using marshmallows as stones, and peanut butter as mortar, have students build altars to remind them of how the Israelites chopped up the wood of the cart that carried the ark and sacrificed the cows that were pulling it.

MATERIALS

1. Marshmallows
2. Chocolate Frosting
3. Plastic knives or Popsicle sticks
4. 5 oz. disposable cups
5. Gummy bears or animal crackers
6. Chinese fried noodles
7. Small paper plates



DIRECTIONS

1. Pass out a small handful of mini marshmallows to each student.
2. Pass out a small paper plate to build the “altars” on.
3. Place small amounts of chocolate frosting in 5 oz. disposable cups. (Students may share a cup of frosting with a partner or small group)
4. Distribute a plastic knife or Popsicle stick to each student to use when spreading the mortar (frosting) on the bricks (marshmallows).
5. Pass out a few Chinese fried noodles to each student to represent the wood on the altar.
6. Demonstrate how to smear a small amount of frosting on the marshmallows and stick them together.

FOR DISCUSSION

As students are building their “altars” discuss how the Philistines no longer wanted the Ark of the Lord. The Israelites had carried it into battle as if to say, “God is with us.” The Israelites used the symbol of God (the ark) much like the pagans used symbols to represent their gods. Ultimately the Israelites suffered great loss to the tune of 30,000 foot soldiers and the loss of the ark. The Philistines put the ark next to their god Dagon. The next morning Dagon was on his face in front of the ark. This happened again the next day. After that, God afflicted the Philistines with tumors which caused the Philistines to want to send the ark back to the Israelites.

TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE: Approximately 25 minutes

MEMORY VERSE

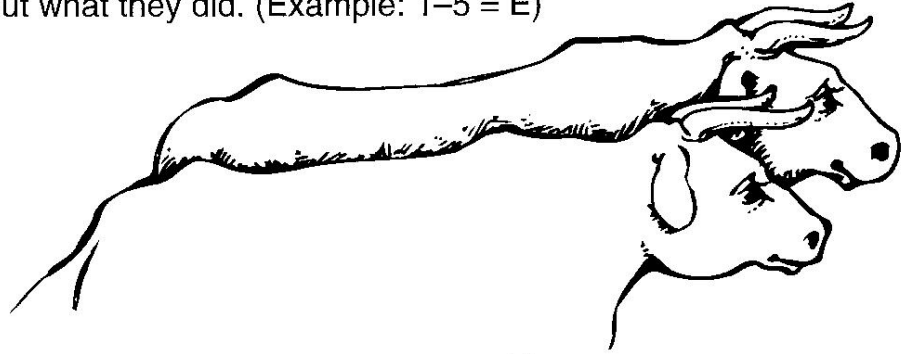
“For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.” Psalm 95:3

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The Philistines wanted to get rid of the ark of God that they had stolen. They thought it had brought them a terrible disease that caused bad tumors (sores). Use the code to fill the blanks in the story to find out what they did. (Example: 1-5 = E)

1	E	M	H	O	P
2	L	A	N	I	C
3	B	R	D	S	K
4	G	T	U	W	F
5	6	7	8	9	



The ark of God had been in the Philistine cities for $\frac{V}{3-8 \ 1-5 \ 1-5 \ 2-7}$ months. "How can we send the ark $\frac{3-5 \ 2-6 \ 2-9 \ 3-9}{?}$ " they asked their $\frac{1-9 \ 3-6 \ 2-8 \ 1-5 \ 3-8 \ 4-6 \ 3-8}{?}$.

"Put it on a $\frac{2-7 \ 1-5 \ 4-8}{?}$ $\frac{2-9 \ 2-6 \ 3-6 \ 4-6}{?}$ " the priests said. "Send along a

$\frac{4-5 \ 2-8 \ 4-9 \ 4-6}{?}$ to the Israelites' $\frac{4-5 \ 1-8 \ 3-7}{?}$. Maybe He will make you

$\frac{4-8 \ 1-5 \ 2-5 \ 2-5}{?}$ again. Make five gold $\frac{3-6 \ 2-6 \ 4-6 \ 3-8}{?}$ and five gold

$\frac{4-6 \ 4-7 \ 1-6 \ 1-8 \ 3-6 \ 3-8}{?}$ and send them with the ark as your gift."

The Philistines put the $\frac{2-6 \ 3-6 \ 3-9}{?}$ on the cart. They hitched up two $\frac{2-9 \ 1-8 \ 4-8 \ 3-8}{?}$

that had $\frac{3-5 \ 2-6 \ 3-5 \ 2-8 \ 1-5 \ 3-8}{?}$, which they penned up. "Watch the cart," the priests

said. "If the $\frac{2-9 \ 1-8 \ 4-8 \ 3-8}{?}$ go back to the Israelites' $\frac{2-5 \ 2-6 \ 2-7 \ 3-7}{?}$ and leave their

calves, we will know the Israelites' God caused our $\frac{4-6 \ 3-6 \ 1-8 \ 4-7 \ 3-5 \ 2-5 \ 1-5 \ 3-8}{?}$."

The cows went back to the Israelites' land without turning to the $\frac{3-6 \ 2-8 \ 4-5 \ 1-7 \ 4-6}{?}$

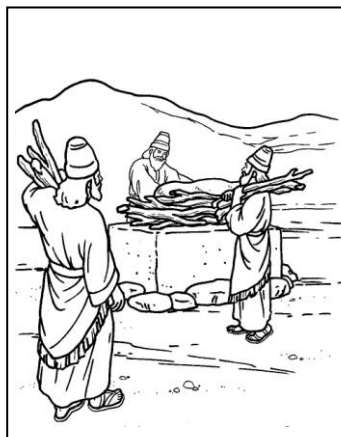
or the $\frac{2-5 \ 1-5 \ 4-9 \ 4-6}{?}$, mooing all the way.

The Philistines learned that the Israelites' God is very powerful. Are you glad you have a Bible to tell you all about Him?

THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON 1 SAMUEL 6 – 7:2

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After having the ark of the covenant for 7 months, the Philistines were ready to give it back. God had brought disease to each of the towns that had

the ark. The Philistines did not want any more trouble.

The Philistines loaded up the ark of the covenant on a wooden cart. They hitched two cows to the cart and loaded up gold as a guilt offering. They hoped that by sending the ark back to the Israelites, they would no longer have trouble in their land.

When the ark arrived home, the Israelites used the wood from the cart to sacrifice the cows as a burnt offering to the Lord. They were happy to have the ark back home again.

They placed the ark on a large rock along with the chest that held the gold.

Unfortunately, 70 Israelites died because they looked inside the ark. They did not treat the ark with the respect that God required.

For more on this story, read 1 Samuel 6 – 7:2 in your Bible.

QUESTIONS

1. Who had the ark at the beginning of the story?
2. What happened to the Philistines because they had the ark?
3. What did the Philistines do with the ark?
4. Why do you think the Philistines wanted to give the ark back to the Israelites?

MEMORY VERSE

“For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.” Psalm 95:3

WORD SEARCH

D	T	S	P	K	D	T	D	J	R	O
I	R	F	G	Y	R	G	S	G	C	W
S	O	M	B	D	F	A	E	F	Z	Z
E	A	B	C	G	T	S	T	W	D	Z
A	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	P
S	E	N	I	T	S	I	L	I	H	P
E	W	H	E	H	H	A	E	W	E	H
D	L	O	G	G	L	A	A	W	U	I
Q	Q	S	K	T	D	H	R	O	Q	N
M	I	O	A	P	X	O	S	C	R	H
A	S	R	Y	P	U	M	I	N	H	T

ALTAR
ARK
COW
DISEASE
GOLD
ISRAELITES
PHILISTINES
SACRIFICE