



## KIDS LESSON STARTER

### Introduction to The Lesson

The people of God had a special box that God commanded them to make. It was called the ark of the covenant, and it represented God's power to protect them and His desire to be with them. It was special for the Israelites and a source of encouragement to them. But today we will hear about a time their enemies took it away.

## TRANSTION TO THE STORY

*Watch the story...*

## CHRIST CONNECTION

*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."*

## QUESTIONS FOR KIDS

Show the *Question for Kids* video.  
Prompt kids to think about how we know God is with us. Guide them to discuss how it feels to know God has promised to be with believers.



## MISSIONS MOMENT

Play the *“Up a River”* missions video.

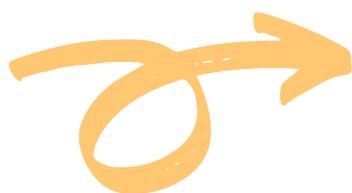
**Say** • Many people live in villages hidden deep in the Amazon Jungle of South America. Kathy, a missionary to the Amazon, knows that people living in these villages need to hear the name of Jesus, but it’s not always easy to get to them. Kathy trusts in God’s power and goodness to get the gospel to people in need of His Son, Jesus Christ. We can trust God’s power too as we live on mission by showing Jesus’ love and telling others about Him.



**Is anything greater than God?**

No, God is greater than everything.

**KEY  
PASSAGE**



**BIG PICTURE  
QUESTION**



**LORD, there is no one like you. You are great; your name is great in power.**

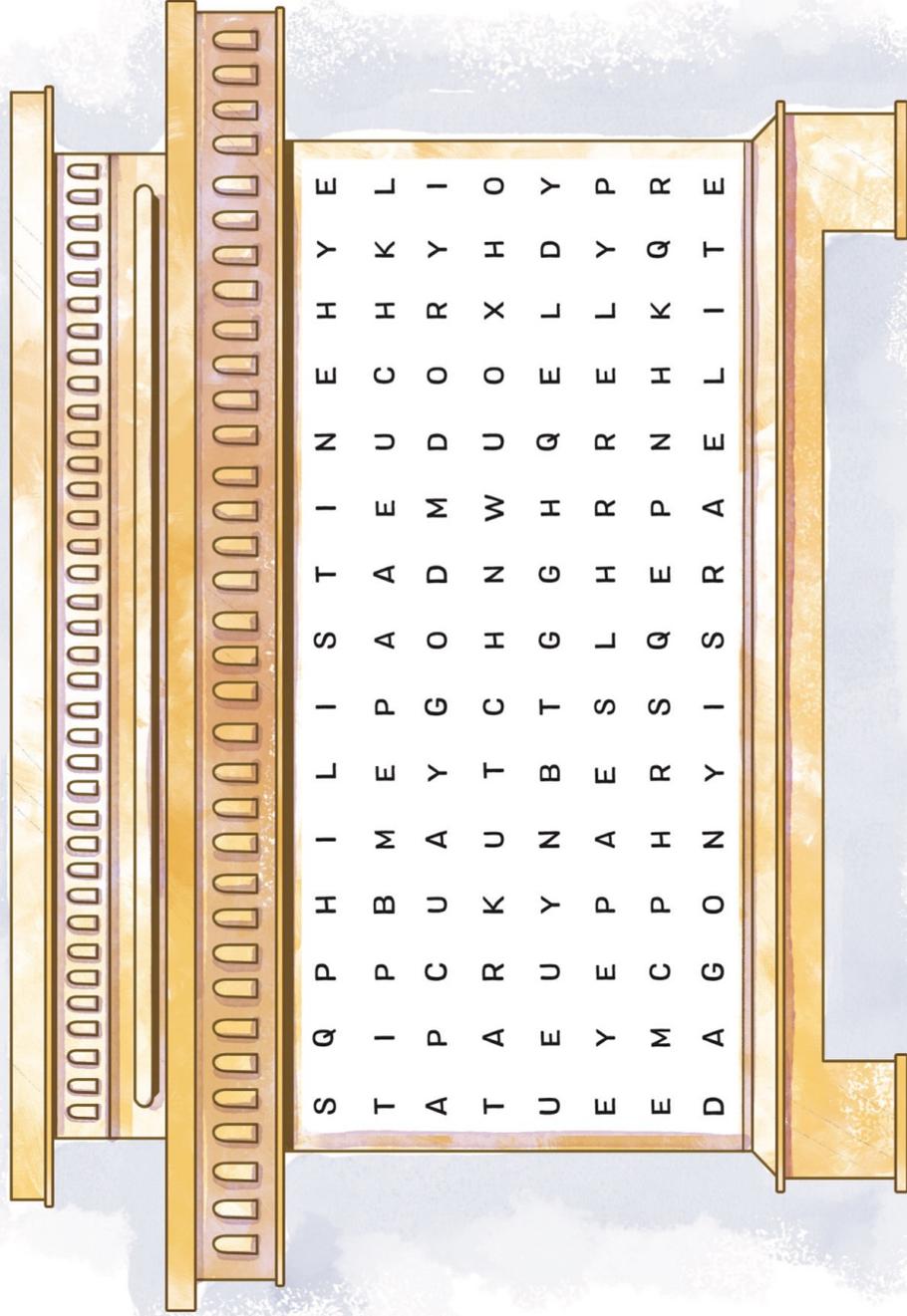
Jeremiah 10:6



# Ark Word Search

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find the words from the word bank hidden in the grid of letters.

ELI    ARK    GOD  
 BATTLE    SAMUEL    SICKNESS  
 ISRAELITE    DAGON    STATUE    PHILISTINE



Younger Kids Activity Pages  
**Unit 10 • Session 2**  
**The Ark Was Captured**

**BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:**

- Israel decided to take the ark of God into the battle.
- Israel lost, and the Philistines took the ark.
- The Philistines began to get sick in the cities where the ark was kept.
- God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God.

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Jeremiah 10:6

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

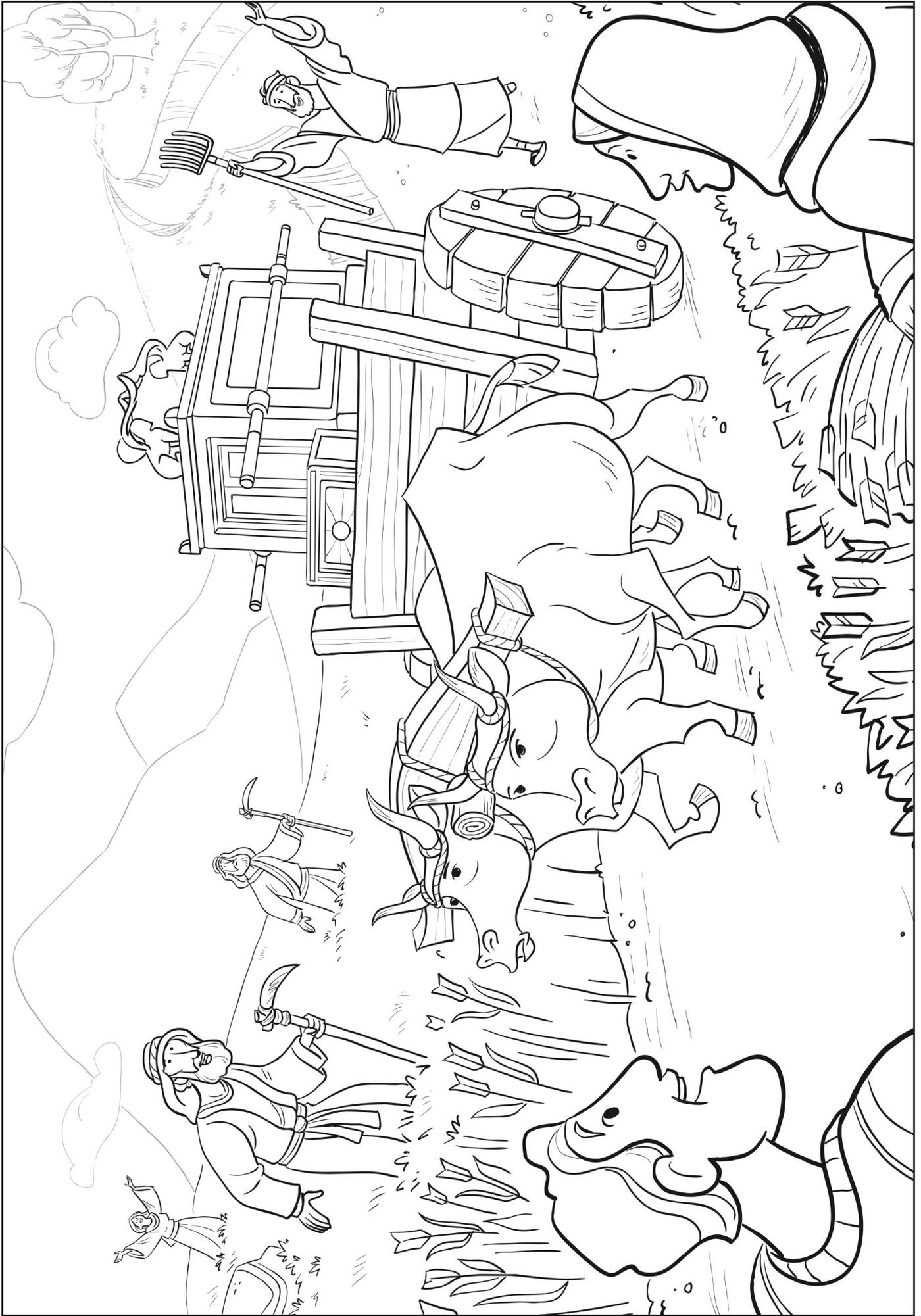
- How do we know God is the one true God?
- What things in our lives might we value more than God?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Walk through your neighborhood with your family. Take a paperclip and ask if your neighbors will trade it for something a little greater or more valuable. Continue trading up in this way. Remind your family that nothing and no one is greater than God.



DOWNLOAD the  
**LIFEWAY KIDS APP**



**STORY POINT: GOD SHOWED THE PHILISTINES THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.**

# Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



FOLD

## The Ark Was Captured

1 Samuel 4-6

**STORY POINT: GOD SHOWED THE PHILISTINES THAT HE IS THE ONE TRUE GOD.**

One day the Philistines defeated Israel. The leaders of Israel said, “Why did God let us lose to the Philistines?” The Israelites decided to take the ark of the covenant to the battlefield. Maybe the ark would help them win. When the army of Israelites saw the ark, they shouted with joy. Surely they would win the battle now!

The Philistines came out to fight against the Israelites, and the Philistines won again! They even captured the ark of God! The Philistines took the ark of God to a temple where they worshiped a false god named Dagon. They put the ark next to a statue of Dagon. The next morning, the Philistines entered the temple and saw that Dagon’s statue was facedown in front of the ark. They set the statue back up where it belonged. The next day, the statue was facedown again. This time, its head and hands were broken off.

God punished the people living in the city where the Philistines kept the ark. The people got sick, and they wanted to get rid of the ark. They decided to return the ark along with gifts of gold to show they were sorry for taking it. They hitched two cows to a cart and put the ark on the cart. The cows moved the ark down the road until the ark of God was back with the Israelites, where it belonged.

*Christ Connection: 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.”*

### FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why was the ark of God important? (*The ark reminded the Israelites of God’s promise to be with His people.*)
- Do you always consult God when something doesn’t work out the way you think it should? Why or why not?
- How can you remember that God is always with you?



# Greater Than

Cross out every fourth letter to answer the question, *Is anything or anyone greater than God?*

G O D H I S G T R E A S T E R E T H A J N E V O E R Y W T H I B N G A S N D E X V E R T Y O N M A



## Follow the Ark

Use your Bible and the clues below to trace the path of the ark on the map.

1. The elders of Israel decided to get the ark of God from this city. (1 Samuel 4:3)
2. The Israelites took the ark to their camp. (1 Samuel 4:1)
3. The Philistines captured the ark of God and took it to the city where the temple of Dagon was. (1 Samuel 5:1-2)
4. The Philistines decided to move the ark to another city. (1 Samuel 5:8)
5. When the people got sick, they sent the ark to another city. (1 Samuel 5:10)
6. The Philistines wanted to return the ark. They sent it up the road to this city. (1 Samuel 6:11-12)
7. Messengers told the people of this city to come get the ark. (1 Samuel 6:21)

