

ELEMENTARY Flight Plan

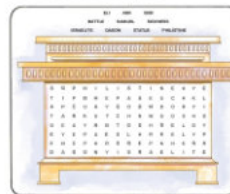
July 12th



Lesson	The Ark was Captured
Bible Passage	1 Samuel 4-6
Story Point	God is in Control
Key Passage	Psalm 23
Big Picture Q & A	<p>How can we know what God is like?</p> <p>We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible</p>



Ark Word Search



How do we know what God is like?
 We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible.

What is the Ark?
 The Ark was a wooden building that Noah built to save his family and animals from the flood.

Who was David?
 David was a young boy who became a great king of Israel. He was a shepherd and a warrior.

Who was Hannah?
 Hannah was a woman who prayed for a child. She gave birth to Samuel, who became a prophet.

Who was Jonathan?
 Jonathan was the son of King Achish and a friend of David.

Who was Samson?
 Samson was a strong man who was captured by the Philistines.

Who was the Shepherd?
 The Shepherd was a man who took care of sheep.

Who was the Wolf?
 The Wolf was a dangerous animal that ate sheep.

Who was Yahweh?
 Yahweh is the name of God in the Bible.



KEY NOTES: RAINFOREST FALLS SUMMER

Discovering God's character is a great adventure! Every story in the Bible shines a light on who God is—His love, power, faithfulness, and grace. Every story we explore this summer will show us amazing truths about God that are revealed to us in the Bible. The more we learn about our Creator, the more we understand who we are and how deeply we are loved. It gives us confidence to trust Him in every moment.

Let's explore the nature of God!

Grace Airways Rainforest Falls Curriculum in Children's Ministry will focus on discovering God's character through Bible stories. Each story chosen highlights a specific attribute of God.

SUMMER PSALM—let's all learn Psalm 23 to give the students consistent excitement and practice each week! We will practice all summer to create a video to share with the rest of Grace Community Church at the Fall-Kick off (Sept 13th) on the big screen.

Key Dates:

July 11th GCC BBQ (baptisms)

Aug 23rd All Sunday Teams Fall Training

Aug 30th Film all classes doing the Summer Psalm

Sept 13th FALL KICKOFF

Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: _____
- Where is the gospel in this story?

THE BIBLE TEACHES US ABOUT GOD'S CHARACTER



JOB



**TOWER
OF BABEL**



TABERNACLE



**BALAM
& BALAK**



**THE ARK
RETURNS**



**ELIJAH &
MT
CARMEL**



EZEKIEL



FIERY FURNACE



HOLY SPIRIT



**PHILIP & THE
ETHIOPIAN**



**PAUL MET
JESUS**



PRODIGAL SON



**CHILDREN
OF GOD**

Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- **Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?**
- **How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?**
- **What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?**
- **In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?**

Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with _____.
- You really helped me while I was _____.
- Thank you for being _____'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- _____ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

leader bible study

The ark of God (also called “the ark of the covenant”) was an important symbol in the lives of God’s people. Not only was the ark the original container for the Ten Commandments, it symbolized God’s presence with His people.

During the time of the judges, the Philistines were a near-constant threat to Israel. Under Samuel’s leadership, the Israelites went out to fight the Philistines. But Israel was defeated because of their sin.

The elders of Israel realized that God had allowed their defeat. He hadn’t fought for them against the Philistines. So they did what seemed logical to them; they took the ark—the symbol of God’s presence—and carried it to the battlefield. But the ark was not a good luck charm. Not only was Israel defeated, the Philistines captured the ark and killed Eli’s sons. When Eli heard the news, he fell over and died.

God’s sovereignty never wavers, even in the midst of human miscalculation and failure. He allowed Israel to be defeated, demonstrating that His purposes cannot be manipulated or controlled by human actions. Ultimately, **God is in control** over all circumstances and outcomes.

Having won the victory, the Philistines concluded that their chief god, Dagon, was better than the God of Israel. They moved the ark to Dagon’s temple, where God showed His power over Dagon. (See 1 Sam. 5:1-5.) As the ark moved between Philistine cities, God afflicted the people and made them sick. The message was clear: No one is like the LORD. God was in control.

The Philistines did not want to keep the ark after all of that, so they sent it away. God is in control and He led it back to Israel in a miraculous way. Israel rejoiced for the reminder 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.”



Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPQ and A & Summer Psalm
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min **Take Off**

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to share about an object that reminds them of another person or place or is a source of encouragement. Consider keepsakes, souvenirs, and so forth. Discuss how it would feel to lose that object or source of encouragement.

Summer Truth

We can explore the nature of God

Big Picture Question

How can we know what God is like?

We can learn more about what God is like through the Bible

Summer Psalm

Psalm 23 ESV

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.

Our story takes place during a time in the Old Testament when Israel was lead by a prophet named Samuel. The Israelites are living in the Promised Land, but face a constant threat from a nearby people called the Philistines. Let's learn about a time when God showed the Israelites and the Philistines that He was in control.



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **1 Samuel 4-6** (pg 280 in the orange bible). Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

When the people of Israel were defeated in battle, they knew it was because God did not fight for them. However, they made a crucial mistake. They did not stop to consider that their sin was the problem. Instead, they assumed that they just needed the ark of the covenant. The ark was a symbol of God's presence with His people, after all. God's people wanted God to fight for them, but they did not care about loving or obeying Him.

Instead of seeing the ark for what it was—a special way God showed His love for them—they treated it like a good luck charm. Perhaps they thought if we carry the ark of God into battle, God will have to defeat our enemies for us. But God cannot be controlled or manipulated. God always does what He wants because what He wants is always best.

When the Philistines won the battle and took the ark, they thought it was proof that their false god was stronger than the one true God. They had no idea how wrong they were! Their statue of Dagon fell over and even broke. The people began to get sick in the cities where the ark was kept! Clearly, their false god could not stop the punishment that the one true God was sending. God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God. Soon, the Philistines decided they needed to give back the ark. They were no match for God.

Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD SHOWED ISRAEL & THE PHILISTINES THAT HE IS IN CONTROL.

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 face-down in front of the ark. They set the statue back up where it belonged. The next day, the statue was face-down 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. God guided the cows 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.”*



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find 1 Samuel 4-6. Lead the group to discuss:

1. **As we explore God's nature in this story, what attribute of God do you see?** God is **in control**
2. **What did the people of Israel do to try to win the battle?** Took the ark into battle (1 Samuel 4:3-4)
3. **Who did God allow to win the battle and take the ark with them?** The Philistines (1 Samuel 4:10-11)
4. **What did the Philistines decide to do after their idol broke and their people got sick?** Send the ark back to Israel with gifts (1 Samuel 6:7-9)
5. **What specific things happened in the story that show us that God is in Control?**
God allowed the Philistines to win the battle & take the ark
God caused their idols to break and them to get sick when they had the ark
God directed the cows to bring the ark back to Israel
6. **What are some ways we know God is in control today?**



God's attributes- In today's story we see that God is:

IN CONTROL

15 min Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Toss and Tell

Play music such as “There Is No One Like You,” “King of Kings,” or another song of your choosing. Instruct the kids to sit in a circle and pass a ball as the music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the ball must say one thing God can help them do.

- God is all powerful. He will help us do everything that He wants us to do. Today we will learn what happened to the ark of the covenant when the people of Israel tried to use it to control God’s power for themselves.

Treasure Box Builders

Print one copy of the treasure box printable for each kid. Help the kids cut out the template and fold it into a box shape. Then, allow kids to use craft sticks and glue to reinforce their boxes and make them sturdier.

- **God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God.** They stole the special box that represented God’s power and presence with the Israelites. That didn’t stop God though! He cannot be contained in a box. He is the ruler of the whole universe. ***Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.*** Our boxes cannot contain God’s power, of course. But before we folded them, our boxes made a shape that reminds us what our greatest treasure is! [*Display unfolded template.*] See how it looks like a cross? Jesus is our greatest treasure. He loves us and died so that we could have life with God forever.

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.

- 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.

Create a Comic

Provide colored pencils and a comic page for each kid. Choose a volunteer to read the caption on each panel of the comic page. Invite kids to illustrate each scene of the Bible story. Kids may refer to 1 Samuel 4–6 in their Bibles. As kids work, ask the following review questions:

- Why did the Israelites take the ark to the battlefield? (*They thought it would give them victory, 1 Sam. 4:3*)
- What happened when the Israelites fought the Philistines again? (*The Israelites lost and the Philistines took the ark of the covenant, 1 Sam. 4:10-11*)
- Where did the Philistines take the ark of God? (*to a temple where they worshiped a false god, 1 Sam. 5:2*)
- What happened to the statue of Dagon? (*It fell facedown before the ark and broke, 1 Sam. 5:3-4*)
- What happened to the Philistines in the cities where the ark was? (*They got sick, 1 Sam. 5:9*)
- How did the Philistines return the ark to the Israelites? (*They put the ark on a cart with gifts, and two cows pulled the cart; 1 Sam. 6:10-12*)

The Israelites were wrong to take the ark to the battlefield as if it were a good luck charm. When the Philistines captured the ark, God showed the Philistines that He is the one true God. *Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.*

Paint on Metallic Paper

Wrap cardboard pieces in sheets of foil. Secure the edges on the back with tape. Roll up the children's sleeves and help them put on smocks. Provide washable paint and cotton swabs for children to paint on the foil. Encourage children to paint a picture of themselves with Jesus.

- 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.***

5 min Pilot's Log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor's house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus' light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

Looking out the Window—Grab a dry erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry erase marker, write those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

Head Shoulders Knees and Toes—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!

