



RLA Kids Weekly Devotional Guide

June 9, 2019

What We're Learning This Week

“THE ARK WAS CAPTURED” 1 SAMUEL 4-6

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's names is Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

Questions to Ask, Conversation Starters, and Helping to Apply The Truths to Our Kids' Lives

Remember: this guide is meant to help facilitate conversations and engagement with Jesus throughout the week, so don't feel like you need to do this all in one day!

BEFORE WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

- Continue conversations as a family regarding the lesson from last Sunday, where we learned that Samuel used God's words to tell the people what God is like. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word. Jesus—the Son of God—told the world about God's plan and showed what God is like. The guide from last week can be found [here](#).
- Read through the book of 1 Samuel 4-6, pray and ask God to reveal himself to you and for wisdom in how to best shepherd and disciple your kids through this Scripture in the next week.

AFTER WE MEET TOGETHER ON SUNDAY

Discipleship Through Scripture and Conversation

- Talk to your kids about the Bible story that they learned at church. Ask them to explain what they learned/what stuck out to them in the story, and expand upon the truths of the Bible that they are bringing up.
- Continue the conversation with your kids on Sunday and throughout the week. Some helpful conversations this week could be:
 1. The ark of the covenant contained the Ten Commandments and symbolized God's presence with His people. In 1 Sam. 4:3, the Israelites attempt to use the ark as a good luck charm to defeat the Philistines, however, they don't seek the LORD himself to intervene.

- Have you ever used God in a way to get what you want without truly wanting God? Did it work?
 - What are ways to genuinely seek the LORD, even during stressful times?
2. Eli died when he heard the ark was captured because he feared the ark of God (1 Sam. 4:13, 18) and even the Philistines' statue of their god, Dagon, fell before the ark two times (1 Sam. 5:1-5)!
 - What does it mean to fear the LORD? (Additional scripture: Psalm 33:8, Deut. 10:12, Proverbs 19:23, Prov. 2:1-6)
 - The Philistines were plagued by tumors. What other Bible story exemplifies God's glory and power through plagues?
 3. The Philistines returned the ark and the Israelites rejoiced.
 - We no longer are required to burn sacrifices to God, therefore, what are ways we can rejoice in him?
 - The ark was a symbol of God with the Israelites. Many years later, he sent them Jesus. How do we have a personal relationship with God because of Jesus?

Discipleship through prayer

- Take time to pray together as a family.
 - Pray to God for him to help you learn what it means to "fear the LORD".
- Ask each member of your family – adults included – to share one thing they would like prayer over. Have someone to pray for that person's request. Encourage your family to pray for that person for the entire week.
- Take time to pray independently for your children, for God to do his mighty work in their hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Discipleship through modeling/action

- Follow up throughout the week about the things you discussed
 - Find a time to pray with your children and use this time to genuinely pray to the LORD. It may be difficult, especially if things are stressful. However, help them learn that they can rely on the LORD through prayer despite any situation.
- Pursue discipleship in your own life. Read Scripture, pray fervently, invest into community, and more. Model the ways of Christ as an example to your kids.

Our Memory Verse for This Unit

OUR MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS UNIT (ENTITLED "SAMUEL AND KING SAUL") IS JEREMIAH 10:6

- *For our older kids we are doing the full verse:*

- "There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might."
- For our younger kids we are doing an abbreviated version of the verse:
 - " There is none like you, O Lord; you are great, and your name is great in might."

While we are helping the kids engage with this Scripture on Sundays through fun activities and time together, we really encourage you to take time to continue to engage with the memorization of this Scripture at home. As always, the hope is not to have our kids simply know a lot of Scripture, but to engage in God's Word and allow Him to use it to transform the hearts of our kids!

What's Coming Up?

- Stay connected by joining the [RLA Kids page on RLA Connect](#)
- Want weekly updates and occasional texts about special announcements? Text the word "Kids" to 323.859.1122. It really helps in preparing for Sunday and the rest of the week!

We Want to Know and Serve You Better!

We love hearing from you! You can email kids@realityla.com at any time with any thoughts, questions, or concerns. We also love to be praying with and alongside you, so please send those over as well.