

Children's House Church - Bible Study (Week 5/21~27)

Bible Story: Eli's Sons Disobeyed God (1 Samuel 4-6)

Read Together: 1 Samuel 4:1-11

Today's Bible Study Time

1. Read together Samuel 4:1-11
 2. Think about the discussion questions and share what you learned about sin.
-

[Message Points: "What is sin?"]

1. Sin is lawlessness.
 - People of Israel had a very clear law, God Almighty.
 - They refused God and lived a lawless life.
 2. Sin is knowing what is good but not doing it.
 - They asked God for help only when they needed.
 - They knew what they had to do but still ignored God's will.
 3. Sin is trying to be God myself.
 - They took the ark of the LORD's covenant by themselves, but God was not with them.
 - It is not us but God who makes the way straight. He never stops working.
-

[Summary]

One day, the Philistines defeated Israel in a battle. The Israelites decided to battle again. This time, however, they would take the ark of the covenant with them. Maybe the ark would help them win.

Eli's sons, who did not respect God, took the ark of the covenant to the Israelites' camp. But when the Philistines came out to fight against the Israelites, the Philistines won again! They killed Eli's sons, and they captured the ark of God. When Eli heard the news, he fell backward in his chair and died.

The Philistines worshiped a false god named Dagon. They put the ark next to a statue of Dagon. The next morning, the Philistines found Dagon's statue facedown in front of the ark. The next day, the statue was facedown again. This time, its head and hands were broken off. God punished the Philistines living in the city where they kept the ark. The Philistines were afraid.

They didn't want God to punish them anymore, so they decided to return the ark along with gifts of gold to show they were sorry for taking it. The Philistines 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.

[Discussion Questions]

Q1. What does this story teach me about God?

Q2. Did the ark of God have any special power?

Q3. Does God leave us alone when we sin against God? Does he rescue us?

Q4. What makes God different than any false god?

[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."