

**Google Docs Links:**

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*Note: Bold text that begins with ► indicate instructions. All other lines indicate points to make, things to say, or questions to ask. Lines in italics are quotes directly from the New International Reader's Version of the Bible.*

## **OT 48 The Philistines Capture the Ark**

**Reference:** 1 Sam 4:1-11, 5, 6

**Big Idea:** There is no god like our God.

**Verse:** 1 Samuel 2:2 - There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

*\*Note: The resources to be used with this lesson are found in the corresponding Resource file.*

**A. INTRODUCTION,** Length: 5-10 min.

*Note: due to the length of this week's lesson, for the sake of time, there is no introduction for this lesson.*

**B. LESSON**, Length: 20-25 min.

**Resources:** Signs (Israelites, Philistines, Gath, Ekron) Dagon Picture, Paper Ark Craft

**Materials:** Tan army men, green army men, table, empty paper towel roll, table, red playdough, yellow playdough, children's wagon, tape

**Setup:**

- Set a long table in the center of the teaching area.
- Tape the Dagon Picture vertically to the empty paper towel tube.
- Take the red playdough and make about a dozen small red balls. Keep them sealed in the container until you are instructed to use them.
- Create the paper ark using the paper ark craft and following the instructions.

**Introduce the story:**

- Today's story is from the first half of the Bible, which is called the...? (Old Testament.)
- Jesus told us that the whole Bible points to him.
- When we read these really old stories that really happened...
- ...we need to always remember Jesus.
- The story we'll read today is from 1 Samuel.
  - ► **Show the children how to find 1 Samuel in your Bible.**
- The book of 1 Samuel is all about a guy named Samuel and the first two kings of Israel.
  - ► **Have the children say "Israel" with you.**
- Do you remember who the Israelites were? (God's special people.)
- The Israelites in this story are Jesus' great-great-great-great-grandparents, aunts and uncles.

**Begin the Story:**

- Here's how today's story begins in 1 Samuel, chapter 4.
- *1 The Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer. The Philistines camped at Aphek*
  - ► **Set the green army men at the right end of the table.**
  - ► **Attach the "Israelites" sign to the front of the table using tape.**
  - ► **Set the tan army men at the left end of the table.**
  - ► **Attach the "Philistines" sign to the front of the table.**
- *The Philistines brought their forces together to fight against Israel.*
  - ► **Slide both groups of army men to the middle of the table.**
- As the fighting spread, the men of Israel lost the battle to the Philistines. The Philistines killed about 4,000 of them on the field of battle.
  - ► **Use your arm to swipe half of the green army off of the table.**
- *The rest of the Israelite soldiers returned to camp. - 1 Sam. 4:1-2*
  - ► **Move the green army men back to their right side of the table.**

**Discuss the previous verses:**

- God's people, the Israelites,...
  - ► **Point to the "Israelites" sign.**
- ...were fighting the Philistines.
  - ► **Point to the "Philistines" sign.**
- Who won this battle? (The Philistines.)
- The Philistines clobbered the Israelites.

### Continue the story:

- Let's get back to the Bible.
- *Then the elders asked them...*
- ▶ **Hold up one green army man.**
- ▶ **Read the following dialogue in an "elder" voice:**
  - *Why did the LORD let the Philistines win the battle over us today? Let's bring the ark of the LORD's covenant from Shiloh. Let's take it with us. It will save us from the power of our enemies.*
- ▶ **Set the army men back with the others.**
- *So the people sent men to Shiloh. They brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord.*
  - ▶ **Hold up the Paper Ark Craft for the children to see.**
- *He sits there on his throne between the cherubim. He is the One who rules over all.*
  - ▶ **Point to the area between the wings of the cherubim.**
- *The ark of the LORD's covenant was brought into the camp.*
  - ▶ **Set it near the green army men.**
- *Then all of the people of Israel shouted so loudly that the ground shook.*
  - ▶ **Have all the children rapidly stomp their feet on the ground for a few seconds.**

### Discuss the previous verses:

- The leaders of the Israelites said, "Why did God let the Philistines beat us today?"
- They knew that they needed God to help them win.
- They could have talked to God and asked him for help.
- What is the word we use for talking to God? (Prayer.)
- But they didn't pray.
- Instead, they went and got something called the Ark of the Covenant.
  - ▶ **Hold up the Paper Ark.**
- The ark was a very special gold-and-wood box.
- God showed the Israelites how to make the ark.
- And God promised to meet with the people of Israel...
  - ▶ **Point to the area between the angel wings.**
- ...right between the wings of the golden angels on the ark.
- Is the ark a special thing? (Yes.)
- The ark is so special, God said nobody could even touch it! (ref. Num. 4:15)
- But was the ark special because it was a magical box? (No.)
- It was only special because God promised to meet them between the wings of the angels.
- But the Israelites didn't ask God for help.
- Instead, they carried the ark of the covenant with them, kind of like a lucky charm.
  - ▶ **Set the paper ark back amongst the green army men.**
  - ▶ **Slide the green army men and the ark in the middle, next to the tan army men.**

### Continue the story:

- Let's get back to the Bible story.
- *Then all of the people of Israel shouted so loudly that the ground shook.*
  - ▶ **Have all the children rapidly stomp their feet on the ground for a few seconds.**
- *The Philistines heard the noise. They asked...*
- ▶ **Hold up a tan army man.**
- ▶ **Say the following in a gruff, soldier voice:**
  - *What's all that shouting about in the Hebrew camp?*

- *Then the Philistines found out that the ark of the LORD had come into the camp.*
  - **► Point to the ark.**
- *So they were afraid.*
  - **► Tell all the children to place their hands on their cheek, look scared.**
- **► Tell the children to repeat after you in a scared voice:**
  - *A god has come into their camp!*
  - *We're in trouble!*
  - *How terrible it will be for us!*
  - *Who will save us...*
  - *...from the power of those mighty gods?*
- These Philistines seemed pretty scared.
- But, as we read the next part in the Bible, you'll see that they started to become brave.
- **► Tell the children to repeat after you in a mighty voice:**
  - *Philistines, be strong!*
  - *Fight like men! - 1 Sam. 4:5-9*
- *So the Philistines fought. The people of Israel lost the battle.*
  - **► Slide all but a couple of the green army men off the table.**
- *Every man ran back to his tent. A large number of them were killed.*
  - **► Move the green army men back to Israel.**
- *The ark of God was captured.*
  - **► Set the ark among the tan army men.**
  - **► Move all the tan army men back to their side of the table.**

#### Discuss what happened:

- The leaders of Israel wanted to win the battle.
- What did they think would help them win? (The ark of the covenant.)
- Who won the battle? (The Philistines.)
  - **► Point to the Philistines Sign.**
- What did they capture? (The ark of the covenant.)
- Things are looking bad for the Israelites.
- They lost really badly.
- And now the Philistines have captured the ark of the covenant.
- Does that mean the Philistines captured God himself?
- Let's read on in the Bible and find out!

#### Continue the story:

- *The Philistines had captured the ark of God. They took it from Ebenezer to Ashdod. They carried the ark into the temple of their god Dagon. They set it down beside the statue of Dagon. - 1 Sam. 5:1-2*
- Before we talk about what the Philistines did, I have a question for you.
- How many gods are there? (One.)
- The Bible says that there is only one God.
- The Philistines had a god called Dagon.
  - **► Hold up the Dagon Statue (taped vertically to an empty paper towel roll.**
- People would build statues of their gods.
- These statues were called "idols".
  - **► Have the children say "idols" with you**
  - **► Set Dagon on the left side of the table, near the tan army men.**
- The Philistines captured the Ark of the Covenant.

- They thought it was a bit like capturing the God of the Israelites.
- They put the ark in Dagon's temple, or a special building where they kept their idol of Dagon.
  - ► **Set the ark at the foot of the Dagon Statue.**
- But now we have two gods: the God of the Israelites...
  - ► **Point to the Ark of the Covenant.**
- ...and Dagon, the god of the Philistines.
  - ► **Point to Dagon.**
- If there is only one God, both of these cannot be the real God!

#### Continue the story:

- The next part of the story takes place the next day, so we have to go to sleep first.
  - ► **Tell the children to rest their heads on their hands and close their eyes.**
  - ► **With everyone's eyes closed, set the statue of Dagon on its side, right in front of the ark.**
  - ► **Yell, "Wake up!"**
- Here's what the Bible says.
- *The people of Ashdod got up early the next day. They saw the statue of Dagon.*
  - ► **Point to Dagon.**
- *There it was, lying on the ground! It had fallen on its face in front of the ark of the Lord.*
- Now, kids, I want you to imagine that you are a Philistine.
- How do you feel that your god fell down and looks like he's worshipping the ark of the covenant? (Various responses.)
- Who do you think made Dagon fall over? (God did.)
- Here's what the Bible says happened next.
- *So they picked the statue of Dagon up. They put it back in its place. - 1 Sam. 5:3*
  - ► **Set the statue of Dagon back where it previous stood.**

#### Continue the story:

- Before we can continue the story, we need to go to bed and wake up again.
  - ► **Tell the children to rest their heads on their hands and close their eyes.**
  - ► **With everyone's eyes closed...**
    - ► **Cut off Dagon's head with scissors.**
    - ► **Set the statue of Dagon and the head on their side, near the ark.**
  - ► **Yell, "Wake up!"**
- *But the following morning when they got up, they saw the statue of Dagon. There it was, lying on the ground again! It had fallen on its face in front of the ark of the Lord. Its head and hands had been broken off. Only the body of the statue was left. Its head and hands were lying in the doorway of the temple.*
- Okay, pretend to be Philistines again.
- Not only did your god fall over, his head and his feet broke off!
- How do you feel now? (Various responses.)
- Who do you think knocked over Dagon, and made his hands and head break off? (God did.)
- Listen to what else the Bible says God did.
- *The LORD's powerful hand punished the people of Ashdod and the settlements that were near it. He destroyed them. He made them suffer with growths in their bodies. - 1 Sam. 5:4-6*
  - ► **Take the red playdough balls and press a few of them onto the foreheads of several children.**
- Philistines, not only is God knocking over Dagon and breaking off his head, he's now making painful growths grow on your bodies!
- How do you feel? (Various responses.)
  - ► **Recollect all the red playdough from the children.**

### Continue the story:

- Here's what the Bible says the Philistines did.
- *The people of Ashdod saw what was happening. They said...*
- ▶ **Hold up a tan army man.**
- ▶ **Read the following in a different voice:**
  - *The ark of the god of Israel must not stay here with us.*
  - *His powerful hand is punishing us and our god Dagon.*
- *So they called all of the rulers of the Philistines together.*
  - ▶ **Hold another tan army man in your other hand.**
- *They asked them...*
- ▶ **Hold out the first army man you picked up.**
- ▶ **Read the following in the same voice as earlier:**
  - *What should we do with the ark of the god of Israel?*
- *The rulers answered...*
- ▶ **Hold out the other army man.**
- ▶ **Read the following in a different voice:**
  - *Have the ark moved to Gath.*
- *So they moved it. - 1 Sam. 5:7-8*
  - ▶ **Attach the Gath Sign to the left wall of the teaching room.**
  - ▶ **Set the ark on the floor below it.**

### Continue the story:

- So, what happened in the city of Gath?
  - ▶ **Ask a child to stand below the Gath sign.**
- Let's keep reading the Bible.
- *But after the people of Ashdod had moved the ark, the LORD's hand punished Gath.*
  - ▶ **Hold up the ark.**
- *That threw its people into a great panic. The LORD made them break out with growths in their bodies. It happened to young people and old people alike.*
  - ▶ **Take a red playdough ball and press it onto the forehead of that child.**
- *So the ark of God was sent to Ekron. - 1 Sam. 5:9-10*
  - ▶ **Attach the Ekron Sign to the back wall of the teaching room.**
  - ▶ **Set the ark on the floor below it.**
  - ▶ **Remove the red playdough from the child and tell them to sit down.**

### Continue the story:

- ▶ **Select another child to stand below the Ekron sign.**
- *As the ark was entering Ekron, the people of the city cried out. They shouted...*
- ▶ **Tell the child to repeat the following after you, one phrase at a time:**
  - *They've brought the ark of the god of Israel to us.*
  - *They want to kill us and our people.*
- *So they called all of the rulers of the Philistines together. They said...*
- ▶ **Tell the child to repeat after you:**
  - *Send the ark of the god of Israel away.*
  - *Let it go back to its own place.*
  - *If you don't...*
  - *...it will kill us and our people."*

- *The death of so many people had filled the city with panic. God's powerful hand was punishing the city. Those who didn't die suffered with growths in their bodies.*
  - **► Take a red playdough ball and press it onto the forehead of that child.**
- *The people of Ekron cried out to heaven for help. - 1 Sam. 5:10-12*
  - **► Remove the red playdough from the child and tell them to sit down.**

#### Discuss the previous verses:

- The ark of the Lord was in the city of Ashdod.
  - **► Point to where the Dagon statue is.**
- What happened to the people there? (They were covered in painful growths.)
- So they moved the ark to the city of Gath.
  - **► Point to the Gath sign.**
- What happened to the people there? (They were covered in painful growths.)
- So they moved the ark to Ekron.
  - **► Point to the Ekron sign.**
- What happened to the people there? (They were covered in painful growths.)
- Who do you think is causing these painful growths? (God.)
- Why is he doing it? (Various responses.)
- God is punishing the Philistines with painful growths.
- He's punishing them because they attacked God's special people, the Israelites.
- He's punishing them for stealing the ark of the covenant and for worshipping a pretend god like Dagon.
- What do you think the Philistines are going to do with the ark? (Various responses.)
- Let's keep reading from the book of 1 Samuel and find out.

#### Continue the story:

- **► Stand below the Ekron sign and hold the ark as you read:**
- *The ark of the LORD had been in Philistine territory for seven months. The Philistines called for the priests and for those who practice evil magic. They wanted their advice. They said to them...*
- **► Read the following in a pleading voice:**
  - *What should we do with the ark of the Lord?*
  - *Tell us how we should send it back to its place.*
- *They answered...*
- **► Read the following in your "evil Priest of Dagon" voice:**
  - *If you return the ark of the god of Israel, don't send it away empty.*
  - *Be sure you send a guilt offering to their god along with it.*
  - *Then you will be healed. You will find out why his hand hasn't stopped punishing you." - 1 Sam. 6:1-3*

#### Discuss the previous verses:

- The Philistines decided to return the ark to the Israelites. Why? (So God would stop punishing them.)
- Listen to what the evil priests of Dagon said to do:
- *The Philistines asked, "What guilt offering should we send to him?" Their advisers replied...*
- **► Read the following in your "evil priest of Dagon" voice:**
  - *There are five Philistine rulers. So send five gold models of the growths that are in your bodies. Also send five gold models of rats. Do it because the same plague has struck you and your rulers alike. Make models of the growths and of the rats that are destroying the country. Pay honor to Israel's god. Perhaps his hand will stop punishing you... - 1 Sam. 6:4-5*
- The Bible says the priests of Dagon said to make five growths out of gold.
- These would look like the growths that grew on the people's faces.



- **► Make five balls of yellow playdough and set them near the ark.**
- The priests of Dagon also told them to make five rats out of gold.
  - **► Show the five yellow rats to the children and set them near the ark.**
- That's a pretty strange thing to do, but, then again, these guys were the priests of the pretend god, Dagon.

#### Continue the story:

- Let's read the rest of their instructions.
- *Now then, get a new cart ready. Get two cows that have just had calves. Be sure the cows have never pulled a cart before. Tie the cart to them...Then put the ark of the LORD on the cart. Put the gold models in a chest beside the ark... Send the cart on its way. But keep an eye on the cart. See if it goes up toward Beth Shemesh to its own territory. If it does, then it's the LORD who has brought this horrible trouble on us. But if it doesn't, then we'll know it wasn't his hand that struck us. We'll know it happened to us by chance." - 1 Sam. 6:7-9*
- The priests of Dagon told them to put the ark on a cart.
  - **► Wheel the children's wagon over to the ark.**
  - **► Set the ark in the center of the wagon.**
- Obviously, the real was way bigger than our little one!
- They told them to put the five gold models of the growths next to the ark.
  - **► Put the five yellow balls of playdough next to the ark.**
- They told them to put the five gold models of rats next to the ark.
- Then, they hooked up two cows to the ark.
  - **► Select two children to both grab the handle of the wagon.**
  - **► Instruct them to moo a few times.**
- Then, they were going to send the cows on their own way.
- If the cows walked back to Israel, then that would mean the God of Israel was the one punishing them.
- If the cows walked somewhere else, then it meant that it wasn't the God of Israel who was punishing them.
- Are cows really smart animals? (No.)
- Do cows in the land of the Philistines know how to read and map and find their way back to Israel? (No.)
- If these cows make it back to Israel, God is the one what is going to have to help them!
- Let's read the Bible and find out what these cows do!

#### Continue the story:

- *So that's what they did. They took the two cows and tied the cart to them. They put the calves in a pen. They placed the ark of the LORD on the cart. They put the chest there along with it. The chest held the gold models of the rats and of the growths. Then the cows went straight up toward Beth Shemesh.*
  - **► Tell the "cows" to slowly the cart towards the Israelites side of the table.**
  - **► Follow behind the cart.**
- *They stayed on the road. They were mooing all the way.*
  - **► Tell the "cows" to moo a couple of times.**
- *They didn't turn to the right or the left. The Philistine rulers followed them all the way to the border of Beth Shemesh.*
  - **► Pretend to look at the cart through imaginary binoculars.**
- *The people of Beth Shemesh were working in the valley. They were gathering their wheat crop. They looked up and saw the ark. When they saw it, they were filled with joy. - 1 Sam. 6:10-13*
  - **► Pick up a few Israelite army men from the table.**
  - **► Make them dance with joy!**
  - **► Tell the cows to return to their seats.**
  - **► Set the ark on the Israelite side of the table.**



### Introduce the big idea:

- The Israelites did do very well in today's story.
- Did they win the first battle against the Philistines? (No.)
- Then they got the ark of the covenant and fought the Philistines a second time.
- Did they win that battle? (No.)
- The Israelites weren't very strong.
- But God was strong.
- What did God do to the statue of the pretend god, Dagon? (Knocked it over, broke off his hands and head)
- What did God do to the enemies of Israel, the Philistines? (Gave them painful growths.)

### Introduce the big idea:

- What should we remember when we think about today's story?
- Do we need to make growths and rats out of gold? (No!)
- Do we need to worship and obey the pretend god Dagon? (No.)
- I think this verse from the Bible tells us what we should remember:
  - *There isn't anyone holy like the Lord. There isn't anyone except him. There isn't any Rock like our God. - 1 Sam. 2:2*
- There is no one like our God!
- He's strong like a rock!
- Dagon isn't like our God!
  - ► **Hold up the broken Dagon idol.**
- Did Dagon create the world like our God did? (No!)
- Did Dagon die on a cross for our sins like our God did? (No!)
- Did Dagon rise from the dead three days later like Jesus did? (No!)
- Is there any god like our God? (No!)
- There's no god like our God!
- And that's our big idea for today: there's no god like our God!
  - ► **Teach the kids the motions for the big idea.**
  - ► **Say the big idea and do the motions with the kids several times.**

Motions for the Big Idea:

No - wag your finger "no"

god - hold your hands apart vertically, about a foot apart (you're pretending to hold a statue like Dagon)

Our - point to yourself with both thumbs

God - point up

**C. APPLICATION/INSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, Length: 15 min.**

**Resources:** Instruction Verse Cards, First Commandment

**Materials:** Marker

**1. Review the story and introduce the activity:**

- a. What pretend god did the Philistines worship? (Dagon.)
- b. What is our big idea? (There is no god like our God!)
- c. You may think, “People don’t make idols like Dagon anymore.”
- d. I don’t need to worry about that kind of thing.
- e. But the Bible says this:
- f. *They worshiped and served created things. They didn't worship the Creator. - Rom. 1:25*
- g. What are “created things”? (The things God has made.)
- h. Nowadays, we don’t make statues like Dagon and worship them.
- i. But we do take some of the good things God has made and love them more than we love God.
- j. Where can we find out how God feels about us worshipping other gods or other things? (The Bible.)
  - i. ► **Set the First Commandment sheet on the table.**
- k. This is the first commandment of the 10 commandments in the Bible.
- l. It says, “You shall have no other gods before me.”
- m. That means we’re only supposed to worship God.
- n. We’ll look at a few things in the Bible that people worshipped instead of God.
- o. Then we’ll look at this first commandment and remember what God says.

**2. Discuss various things we love more than God:**

- a. ► **Repeat the following with each Instruction Verse Card:**
  - i. ► **Set the Instruction Verse Card on the table and read it.**
  - ii. Can you guess which word in this verse describes something that people worship and love rather than God? (Various responses.)
  - iii. ► **Circle the keyword of the verse. (See chart below.)**
  - iv. ► **Explain what the keyword means. (See chart below.)**
  - v. ► **Flip the verse over.**
  - vi. ► **Write the summary word on the back of the verse in large letters.**
  - vii. What kinds of things do people who worship or love this more than God do?
  - viii. ► **Hold up the First Commandment Sheet and have the children read it with you.**
  - ix. Does God want us to worship and love <say the summary word ► more than him? (No.)
  - x.

**3. Wrap up the activity:**

- a. Does God want us to worship anything other than him? (No.)
- b. Disobeying God’s commandments is called...what? (Sin.)
- c. Whenever we think about our sin, there’s something important we need to remember.
- d. Do you know what it is? (Various responses.)
- e. We need to remember that God’s Son, Jesus, died for all of our sins.
- f. Jesus died for all the times when we worshipped and loved something more than him.
- g. What does the Bible tell us we need to do to be saved from our sins? (Turn from our sins and trust in Jesus.)

VERSE	KEYWORD	SUMMARY WORD	THINGS PEOPLE DO
Luke 12:15	Things	Stuff	Buy lots of stuff, do not share
1 Tim. 6:10	Money	Money	Work a lot, steal, not share or give
John 12:43	People	People	

**D. VERSE ACTIVITY**, Length: 15 min.

**Resources:** Verse Cards

**Materials:** Medium-sized rocks (11), tape, long table

**Verse:** 1 Samuel 2:2, ESV - There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

**Setup:**

- Attach each verse cards to a rock.
- Set these rocks in a line at one end of the table.

**1. Discuss the verse and the activity:**

- ▶ **Read the verse as a group.**
- The word “holy” means perfect: someone who never does wrong.
- No one is holy, or perfect like God.
- “For there is none besides you” means that there is no other God.
- It says, “There is no rock like our God.”
- What does this verse mean when it calls God a rock? (Various responses.)
- Rocks are strong and big rocks can’t be moved.
- God is a rock because he’s super-powerful and no one can stop him.
- As we learn this verse, we’ll try to knock rocks with verse words on them off of the table.

**2. Do the activity:**

- ▶ **Give the extra rock (the one without a verse card) to a child.**
- ▶ **Have them stand at the opposite end of the table from the verse cards/rocks.**
- ▶ **Tell them to slide the rock down the table, trying to knock a rock/verse card off of the table.**
  - Note: let them attempt it again if they fail to knock over a verse card.*
- ▶ **Erase the words from that verse card from the board.**
- ▶ **Read through the verse as a group, teaching them the motions below *as* those particular words are erased.**

**Motions for the Verse:**

None - wag your index finger “no”

Holy - hold your hands up and bow forward

Lord - point up

Besides - pretend to put your arm around an imaginary person next to you

Rock - tap one fist on top of the other

God - point up

**E. REVIEW ACTIVITY,** Length: 15 min.

**Resources:** Dagon Pins

**Materials:** Plastic bowling pins (10)\*, tape, playground ball, masking tape.

*\*Alternative: old plastic 2-liter or 20. oz soda bottles filled with water.*

**Setup:**

- Attach each Dagon Pin Picture to a pin/soda bottle.
- Set them up in a typical 10-pin bowling pattern.
- Make a masking tape line on the floor about 10 feet from the pins.

**1. Describe the activity:**

- a. ▶ **Hold up one of the Dagon Pins.**
- b. What happened to the statue of the pretend god Dagon in today's story? (It was knocked over.)
- c. Who knocked Dagon over? (God.)
- d. As we answer questions about today's story, we'll be bowling over statues of Dagon.
- e. When we knock him over, we'll remember that there's no god like our God!

**2. Do the activity:**

- a. ▶ **Give the ball to a child and have them stand at the masking tape line.**
- b. ▶ **Have them answer a question from below.**
- c. ▶ **Give them two chances to bowl the ball, trying to knock over as many Dagon pins as they can.**
  - i. *Note: remove the knocked over pins after the first roll.*
- d. ▶ **Record the number of knocked-over pins on the board.**
- e. ▶ **Repeat the following with different children, until time runs out.**
- f. ▶ **When you are finished, tally up the total number of times the children knocked Dagon over.**

**Questions // Answers**

1. Who did the Israelites lose a battle against? // The Philistines
2. After they lost the battle, what did the leaders of the Israelites go get? // The ark of the covenant
3. What did the Philistines take from the Israelites? // The ark of the covenant
4. What was the name of the Philistines' god? // Dagon
5. What did God do to the statue of Dagon? // Make it fall over, made it's head and hands break off
6. What happened to the Philistines when the ark was in their cities? // They had painful growths on them
7. What things did the Philistines put on the cart with the ark? // Five gold "growths" and five gold rats
8. How did the cows walk back with the ark to Israel? // They walked straight, not turning, and mooing all the way
9. What is today's big idea? // There's no god like our God.
10. What is today's Bible verse? // 1 Samuel 2:2 - There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God. (ESV)

## Parent Email Information

To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

### OT 48 The Philistines Capture the Ark

**Reference:** 1 Sam 4:1-11, 5, 6

**Big Idea:** There is no god like our God.

**Verse:** 1 Samuel 2:2 - There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

#### Motions for the Big Idea:

No - wag your finger "no"

god - hold your hands apart vertically, about a foot apart (you're pretending to hold a statue like Dagon)

Our - point to yourself with both thumbs

God - point up

#### Motions for the Verse:

None - wag your index finger "no"

Holy - hold your hands up and bow forward

Lord - point up

Besides - pretend to put your arm around an imaginary person next to you

Rock - tap one fist on top of the other

God - point up

#### Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. Who did the Israelites lose a battle against? // The Philistines
2. After they lost the battle, what did the leaders of the Israelites go get? // The ark of the covenant
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#### Google Docs Links:

[Lesson](#) | [Resources](#)