1 Samuel 5

“*Philistine Troubles”*

**Scripture:** 1 Samuel 5:1-12

**Memory Verse:** *“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of*

 *them, triumphing over then in it.”* Colossians 2:15

**Lesson Focus:** God is always in charge!

**Activities and Crafts:** Coloring Pages, Work sheets;

1st & 2nd Grade Craft: God Wins! Bracelet

**Introduction:** Hot Potato: Play a game of “Hot Potato”. Play several rounds and ask the kids if they like to win. Why or why not? Do we brag when we win? Why or why not? Ask the kids to tell of a time that they won a great victory.

**Bible Study:**

 **1 Samuel 5:1**

√ Who are the Philistines?

 √ What did they take? (The Ark of God.)

 √ What is the Ark of God? (It was a golden box that was a symbol to Israel that God

was with them. It contained precious items to the nations of Israel and was covered with two angels.)

 √ Why do you think that they took the Ark of God?

 √ Where did the Philistines take the Ark? (to Ashdod – a central city in the middle

 of the Philistine territory.)

 **1 Samuel 5:2**

√ Where did they place the Ark of God? (in the temple of Dagon and set it by the

 statue of Dagon.)

 √ Who is Dagon?

1. Dagon was the highest of the Philistines gods (Judges 16:23 & 1 chronicles 10:10.)
2. They set up the ark next to Dagon – to symbolize that they had one and their god was greater.

**1 Samuel 5:3**

 √ What happened to their god the next morning?

 √ What did dagon fall on? (It’s face.)

√ What does verse 3 call the ark? (The Ark of the Lord – this is the proper name for  the Ark – the word “Lord” is God’s covenant name “Yahweh”.)

 √ Do you think that it is important that the Bible says that dagon fell before the Ark

 of the Lord?

 √ What did the people do with dagon? (they set him up again.)

 **1 Samuel 5:4-5**

 √ What happened to dagon this time? (His head & Hands were broken off.)

 The followers of dagon to this day, step over the door way where the head and

 hands fell off.

 √ Does this demonstrate that their god dagon, was just a statue made with hands?

 √ Does this demonstrate that their god had no power?

 **1 Samuel 5:6-10**

 “*The hand of the Lord was heavy?”* What do you think that means? God was

punishing them for thinking that they were more powerful that God. God is going to show them who they really are. They are mere men and He is GOD!

1. God gave them painful tumors
2. They took the Ark to another town, Gath. Gath got tumors
3. They took the Ark to Ekron
4. √ How did the Ekron’s respond to the Ark being in their town?

(They thought that they brought the Ark to kill them.)

 **1 Samuel 5:11-12**

 √ What decision did the Philistines make about the Ark?

 √ Why do you think that they made that decision?

**Application #1: Defying God**

This is a true story of a nation defying God. That means that they thought that they were more powerful than God because they had taken God’s ark. The Ark of the Covenant is not who God is. It only represents God. The Philistines had their “gods” and the most powerful one (they thought) was dagon. They believed their “gods” had power. They believed in a man-made statue. So when they took the Ark they thought that they had taken the Israelites God. But God is not a man–made thing and He does not live in a box or anything that man can make. They did not take God – but they did wave their fists in the air at our God. We defy God by going against God and challenging Him.

Can we defy God? Let’s talk about some situations and how they defy God.

1. Not obeying our parents.
2. Lying
3. Pride
4. Stealing
5. Self-righteousness
6. Un-Forgiveness
7. Wanting what we do not have
8. Not trusting God in our circumstances

**Application #2: God Wins!**

All throughout the Bible we see that God wins. Even when it looks like God is losing. The Philistines won the battle and they took the ark to prove that they had one the war. But had they really won? Was God still God? Who let them win?

The Bible teaches us that sometimes God let’s our enemies win to teach us a lesson. The nation of Israel was not walking with God. The two priests of the temple (Eli’s sons) were living in great sin. God allowed the Philistines to win. But the war was not over. It looks like the Philistines “got away with it.” But they did not.

This is the same, as when Jesus came. When Jesus died on the cross it looked like satan one. It looked like God lost. Jesus God’s son dying on the cross for our sin did not stay dead. Three days later He rose from the grave and sits at the right hand of God.

*“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over then in it.”* Colossians 2:15

Jesus has paid the price for the ultimate victory over the enemy satan. It may look like he is winning when we read the news or hear what is going on in the world. But he is not – God has already won.

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