

Year 2

Week 66

The Ark of God is Stolen

Scriptures: I Samuel 4

Key Verse: I Samuel 4:17 The man who brought news replied, “Israel fled before the Philistines, the army suffered heavy losses, also, your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas are dead and the ark of God has been captured.”

Key Points:

1. The Israelites fought against the Philistines. They lost the battle because God had been displeased with them. The elders decided to go get the ark at the tabernacle at Shilo. They brought it to the battlefield for good luck, hoping it would help them win their battles. This was sinful idolatry. Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas were with the ark.

2. When the ark came into camp there was great shouting. This made the Philistines afraid at first. They remembered how powerful the Israelite God was in Egypt (remind them of the plagues, etc) So they gathered their strength and defeated the Israelites in battle. The losses were great, 30,000 soldiers were killed.

3. The ark was captured in the battle, Hophni and Phinehas were killed as well. A messenger was sent to tell Eli about the battle.

5. Eli was 98 years old and very feeble. The messenger told him about the great number of soldiers killed, that his sons had died, and that the ark had been captured. Eli was sitting in a chair and was a heavy man. When the ark being captured was mentioned, he fell back in his chair, broke his neck and died.

6. Eli led Israel for 40 years before he died. Eli’s sons died because of their wickedness. We learn here that our sin draws us away from God.

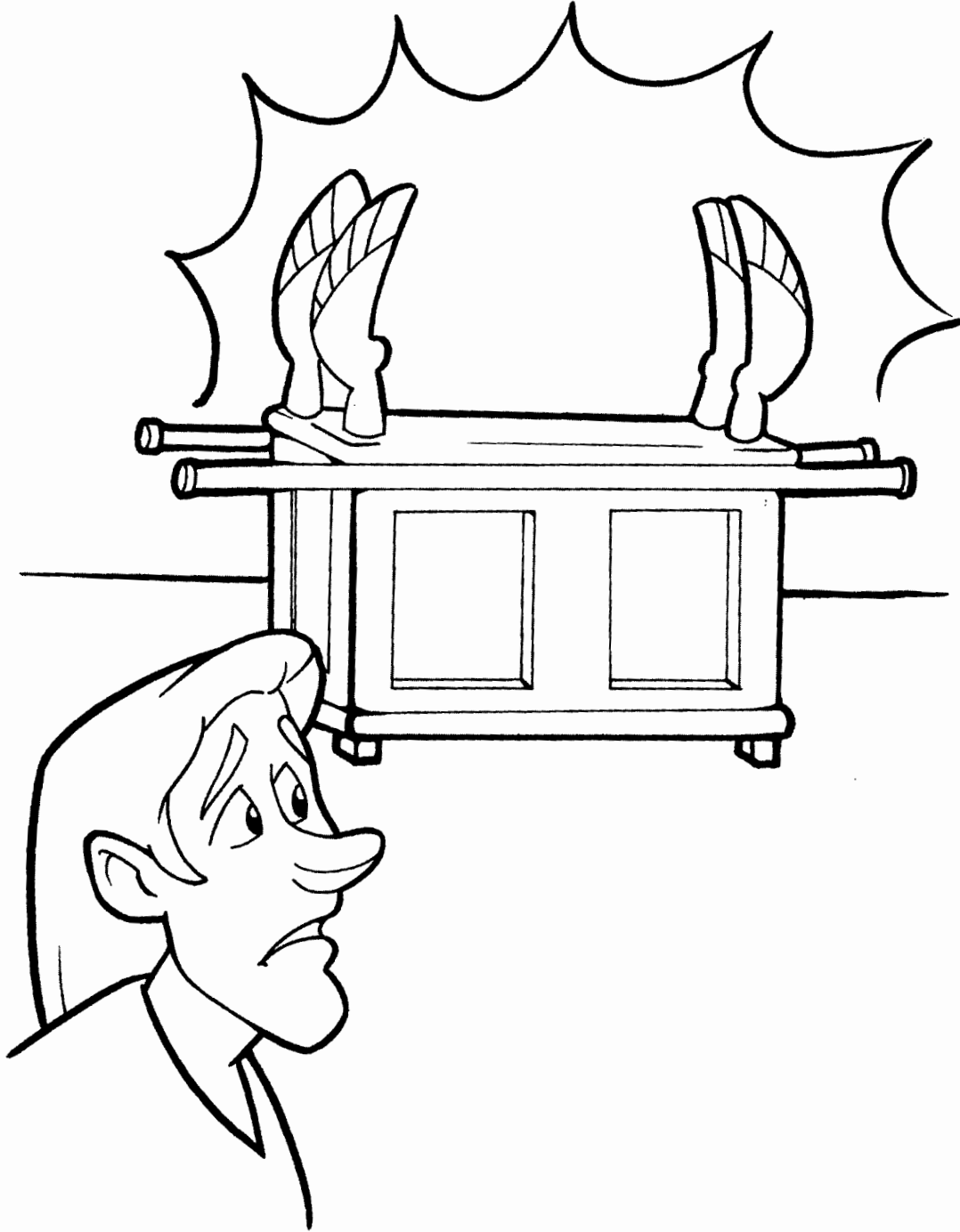
THE ARK OF GOD IS CAPTURED

1 Samuel 4:1-18



The Philistines capture the Ark of the Lord's Covenant

THE CAPTURE & RETURN OF THE ARK (1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:2)



"And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again."
1 SAMUEL 5:3



**ELI HEARS HIS SONS HAVE DIED IN BATTLE AND
THE ARK OF THE COVENANT WAS CAPTURED**

! SAMUEL 4:17

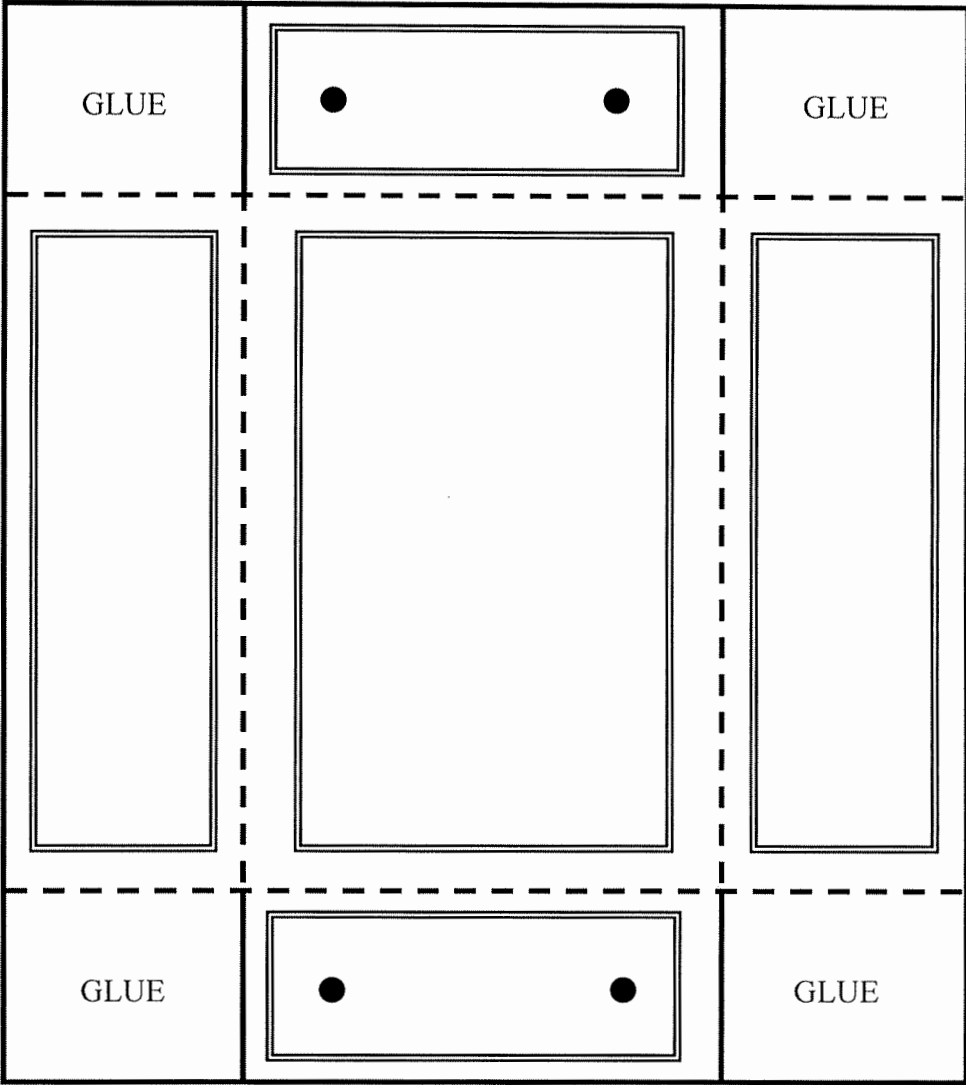
And he said, "What happened, my son?"

"So the messenger answered and said, "Israel has fled before the Philistines, and there has been a great slaughter among the people. Also your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead; and the ark of God has been captured."

THE ARK OF GOD IS CAPTURED

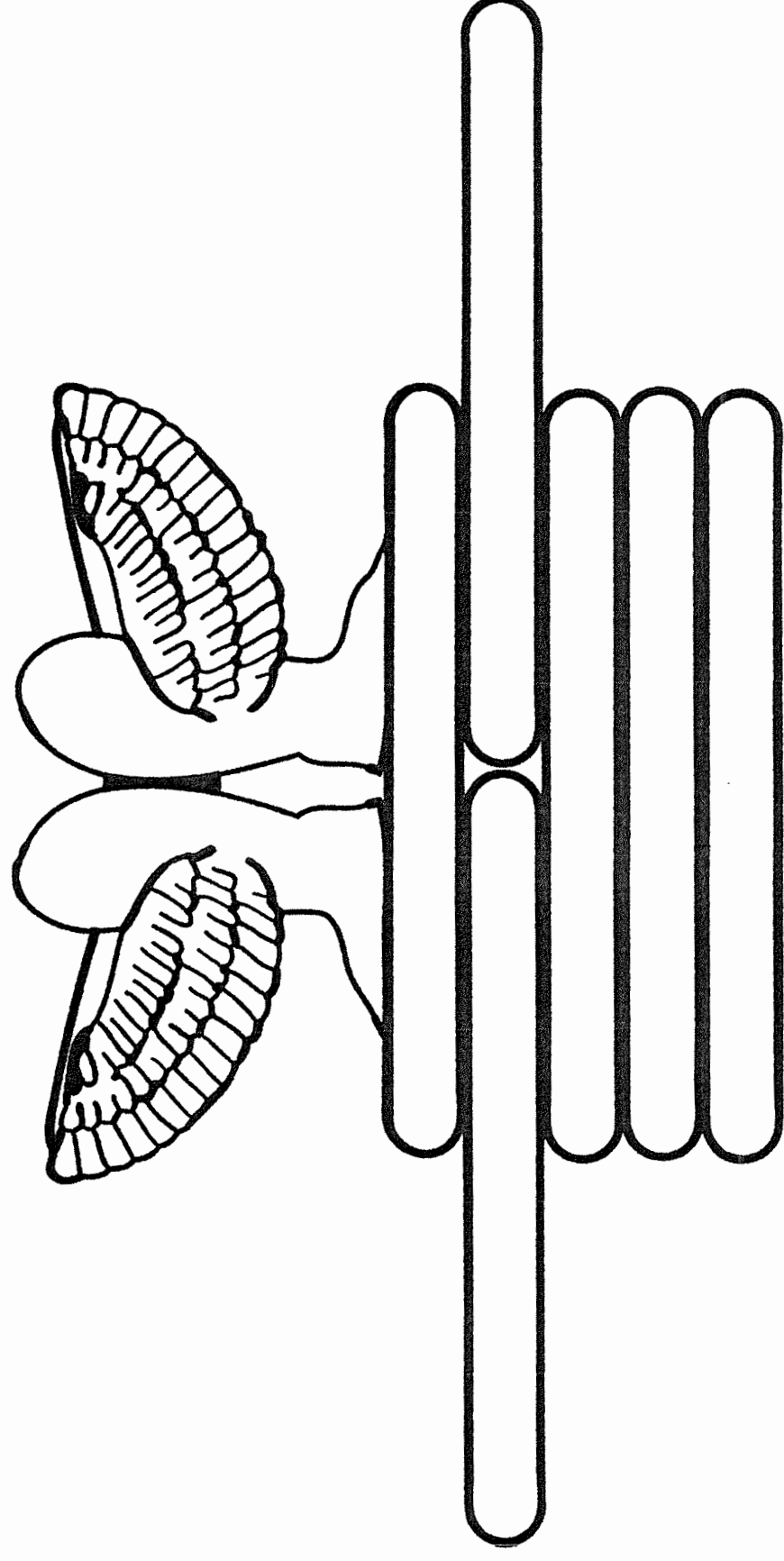
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ARK PATTERN



CRAFT-STICK ARK OF COVENANT

1. Print the template on card stock or construction paper.
2. Color and cut out the ark of the covenant template. Skip the coloring step by printing the template on gold construction paper.
3. Glue yellow colored popsicle sticks onto the template. You can also paint regular wooden popsicle sticks yellow using markers or paint.
4. If you desire, decorate the ark of the covenant using glitter.



Ark of the Covenant is Captured

FILL IN THE BLANKS

The Philistines and the Israelites were _____ each other. About 4,000 _____ died. The leaders of Israel sent men to get the _____. The Philistines _____ the ark from the Israelites. Many more soldiers _____. When _____ found out what _____ happened, he died too.

Key: soldiers fighting took died Eli ark

QUESTIONS

When the Philistines and Israelites fought, who won?

What did the Israelites bring with them into battle?

Why do you think the Philistines took the ark of the covenant?

Why do you think the Lord allowed the Israelites to lose the battles?

THE CAPTURE & RETURN OF THE ARK

(1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:2)

R L Z C Z B Y T W N H U K Q T
V K O A S Q J N Q K I U S P R
N D W P M R T D N O U T M N R
G W E L H J E I S R A E L A W
D V H T F I N G I B A T J Y P
P J Q O A I L R N H F D T Q N
K L I D M E D I T E F D A U K
S W L D A C F E S S S Q A Q B
P E H E Q G A E N T R S U T C
P L T R S T O A D R I O E H D
R V Y U A C S N A F U N M M W
X D O T Q R L Z L V T T E U K
O D A P V J K E B I Q C E S T
A F R A I D P M Z O H U E R I
S Z V C P W U D Z N A J N T E

AFRAID
ARK
CAPTURED
DAGON

DEFEATED
ISRAEL
MESSENGERS

PHILISTINES
RETURNED
TUMORS



THE CAPTURE & RETURN OF THE ARK

(1 SAMUEL 4:1-7:2)

MEMORY VERSE:

"And the men of Beth Shemesh said, 'Who is able to stand before this holy LORD God?' " 1 SAMUEL 6:20

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

1. "Now Israel went out to battle against the (PHILISTINES, EGYPTIANS)." 1 SAMUEL 4:1
2. "And when they joined battle, Israel was (MOCKED, DEFEATED) by the Philistines." 1 SAMUEL 4:2

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

3. The elders of Israel said, "Let us bring the _____ of the covenant of the LORD from Shiloh to us, that when it comes among us it may save us from the hand of our enemies." 1 SAMUEL 4:3
4. "When the ark of the covenant of the LORD came into the camp, all Israel shouted so loudly that the _____ shook." 1 SAMUEL 4:5

TRUE OR FALSE:

5. "So the Philistines were afraid, for they said, 'God has come into the camp!' And they said, 'Woe to us! For such a thing has never happened before.'" 1 SAMUEL 4:7
TRUE OR FALSE
6. So the Philistines gave up and ran for their lives. 1 SAMUEL 4:9-10
TRUE OR FALSE
7. "The ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, died." 1 SAMUEL 4:11
TRUE OR FALSE
8. "And when the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon and set it by Dagon." 1 SAMUEL 5:2
TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

9. "When the people of Ashod arose early in the morning, there was Dagon, fallen on its _____ to the earth before the ark of the LORD. So they took Dagon and set it in its place again." 1 SAMUEL 5:3
BACK FACE
10. "The hand of the LORD was heavy on the people of Ashod, and He ravaged them and struck them with _____, both Ashod and its territory." 1 SAMUEL 5:6
TUMORS STONES

FILL IN THE BLANK:

11. After the ark brought destruction upon Gath, it was sent to Ekron and the people "sent and gathered together all the lords of the Philistines, and said, "Send away the ark of the God of Israel, and let it go back to its own place, so that it does not _____ us or our people." 1 SAMUEL 5:11

TRUE OR FALSE:

12. "So they sent messengers to the inhabitants of Kirjath Jearim, saying, 'The Philistines have brought back the ark of the LORD; come down and take it up with you.'" 1 SAMUEL 6:21
TRUE OR FALSE

THE CAPTURE & RETURN OF THE ARK

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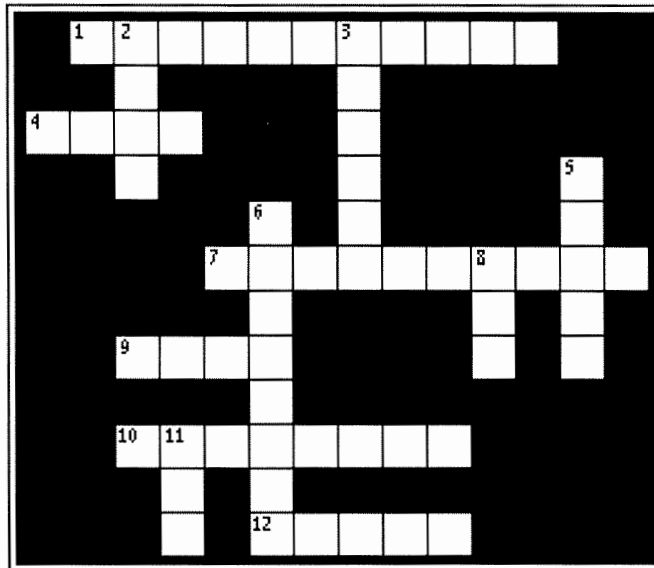
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THE ARK OF GOD IS CAPTURED

1 Samuel 4:1-18

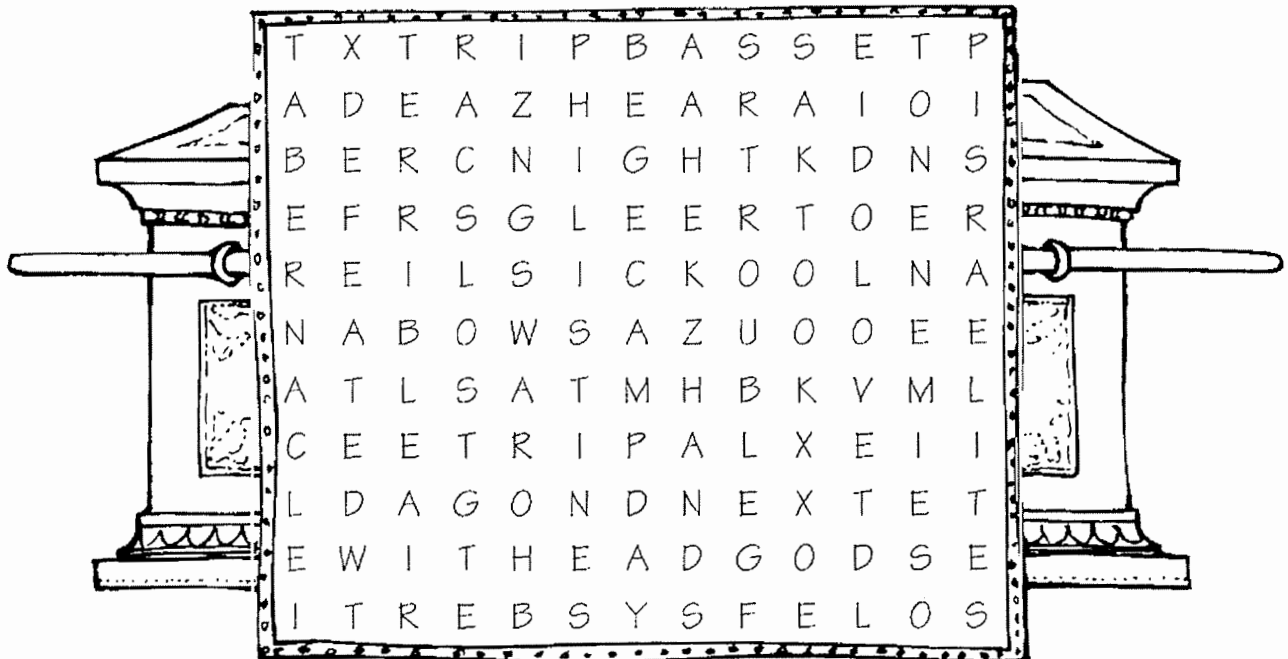
Read the story below about how the ark of the Lord's covenant was stolen. Then find and circle the capitalized words in the word search. Look across, down, and diagonally. Circle the word TRIP twice.

The ISRAELITES were at WAR with the PHILISTINES. At that time, the Israelites did not LOVE GOD as they should. They did not HEAR His words and obey them. Because of their SIN, God did not help them fight. The Philistines DEFEATED them in a BATTLE, killing 4,000 of their soldiers. At their CAMP, the Israelites said, "Let's take the ARK of God WITH us to battle. IT will help us fight."

The Israelites took the ark into the next battle, which was wrong. The ark belonged in the TABERNACLE. Again, the Israelites LOST, and 30,000 of their men were killed. Their ENEMIES TOOK the ark with them. That was ONE SAD DAY for the Israelites.

"We captured the ark of God of the Israelites!" the Philistines cried with GLEE. Then the ark took a long TRIP. It went to one of the Philistine's cities. They put it NEXT to their IDOL god, DAGON. Dagon fell down that NIGHT. They SET it up again. The next night, Dagon fell again, and its HANDS and HEAD broke off. Soon, many Philistines in that city got very SICK. "Take the ark away," they begged. "It brings TERRIBLE TROUBLE."

Then the ark took a TRIP to two other cities. Those people became very sick, too. "What shall we do?" they cried.



The ark did not take care of the sinning Israelites. If we sin, wearing a cross will not help us. To have Jesus' protection and help, He tells us to love Him truly and obey Him.