

Tonight's

passage – 1 Samuel 4.¹⁻¹¹

theme – On the slide

Sometimes people can be very superstitious! Sometimes they cross their fingers hoping that that'll bring them 'luck'! It's the Lord who helps us – not any luck! Try and find the crossed fingers on every page!

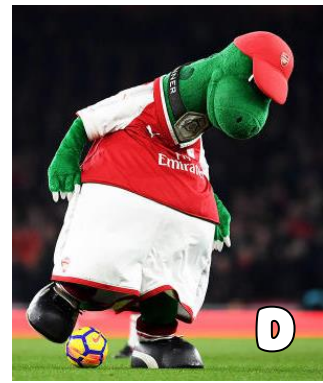
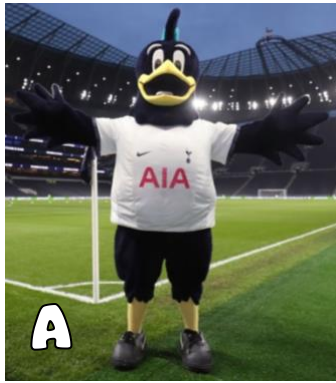


mascots

Our word mascot comes from a French word 'mascotte' which means 'a lucky charm'

Here are 10 pictures of the 'mascots' of some famous football teams.

See if you can match the picture with the name of the mascot and the football team



Team

Mascot Name

TEAMS

MASCOT NAMES

A
B
C
D
E
F
G
H
I
J

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- Arsenal
- Barcelona
- Benfica
- Borussia Dortmund
- Celtic
- Dundee FC
- Liverpool
- Manchester Utd
- RB Leipzig
- Tottenham Hotspur

- Agua Vitoria
- Bulli
- Chirpy
- Clam
- Emma
- Fred the Red
- Gunnersaurus
- Hoopy
- Mighty Red
- Snappy Dee

Read **1 Samuel 4** **when**
things
go wrong
(sometimes they go very wrong!)

And Samuel's word came to all Israel.

Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek.

²The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield.

The people of Israel were having a hard time.

Nothing they did seemed to work.

The neighbouring people, the Philistines, had been making life really tough for them.

And when the Israelites tried to sort things out – it just got worse! They were defeated.

Things can go wrong in our lives too!

Match the problem with the picture by drawing a line between them



falling out with your friends

think ..



breaking something

.. of some of the things which have gone wrong in your life

What are the bad things which have happened?



doing badly in a school test

falling off your bike

losing your temper

feeling unwell



what should I do?



The 'ark'

How many times is the 'ark' mentioned in these 3 verses? times

The 'ark' referred to here wasn't a boat like Noah's ark!

The 'ark' was a wooden box which contained the tablets of stone on which the commandments of God were written.

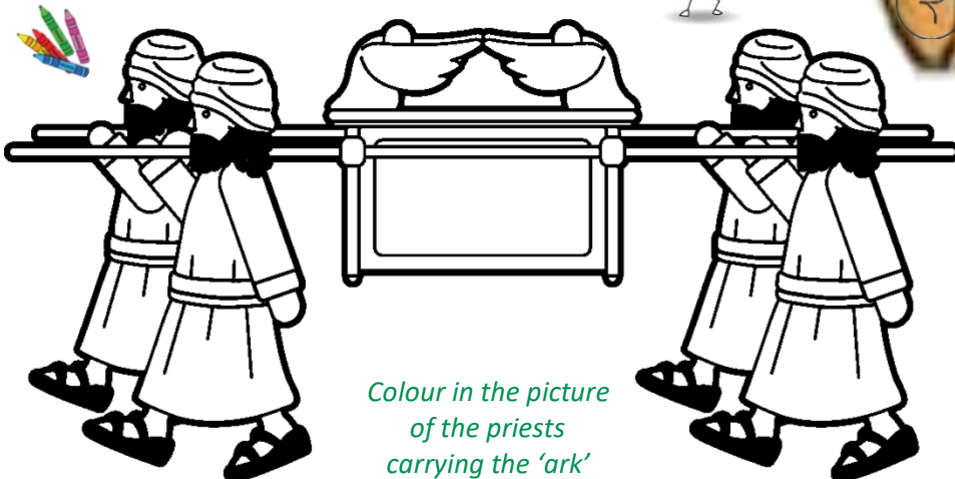
It was a reminder to the people that they were God's people: He was committed to them and they were to be committed to Him.

The 'ark' was a bit like a wedding ring which God had given to His people.



The 'ark' reminded that that God had rescued them – but it also reminded them that they now had certain responsibilities.

But the people had **forgotten** all about their responsibilities – they were treating the 'ark' like a 'lucky charm'.



Colour in the picture of the priests carrying the 'ark'

Read 1 Samuel 3 verses 3-5

³ When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, 'Why did the Lord bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies.'

⁴ So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

⁵ When the ark of the Lord's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook.

think ..

Do you sometimes treat the Lord as if He was some kind of a 'lucky mascot'?



Read
1 Samuel 3
verses 6-11

⁶Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, 'What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?'

When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp, ⁷the Philistines were afraid.

'A god has come into the camp,' they said. 'Oh no! Nothing like this has happened before.'

⁸We're doomed! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the wilderness.

⁹Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!'

¹⁰So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty-thousand foot-soldiers. ¹¹The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

from
bad
to
worse!

a really bad day!

They'd relied on religion and had treated God as if He was their mascot.

And it didn't work! Jesus is our Lord and King – not a lucky charm!

Read verses 10 & 11 and write down the 4 things which went badly wrong for the people.

The Israelites were **f** _____

30,000 soldiers were **l** _____

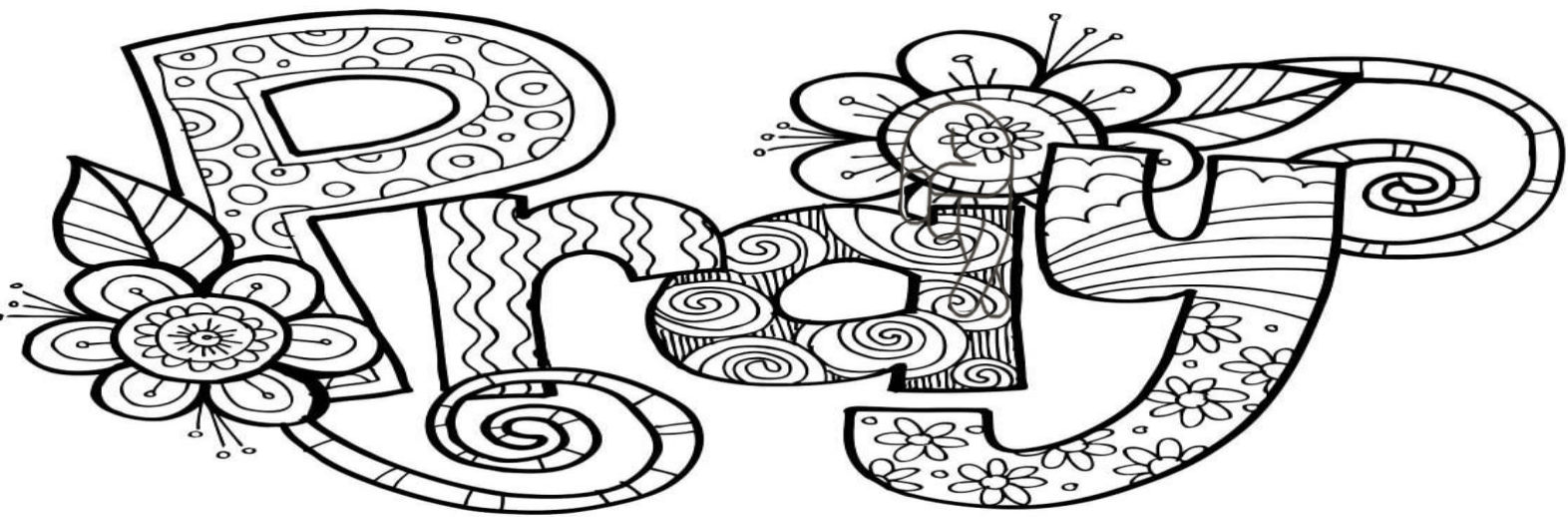
The ark of God was _____ **e** _____

The next generation of priests _____ **d** _____

".. and every man _____ to his tent"

Sometimes God has to let things get worse in our lives before He can make them better!

Remember – Jesus is Lord, not a 'lucky charm'!



Think about what you've been learning in this worksheet.

Speak to God about what you've learned: if you want, use this prayer to help you

Lord Jesus, thank You for what You teach me in the Bible.

Reading some of the stories makes me sad. Like this one.

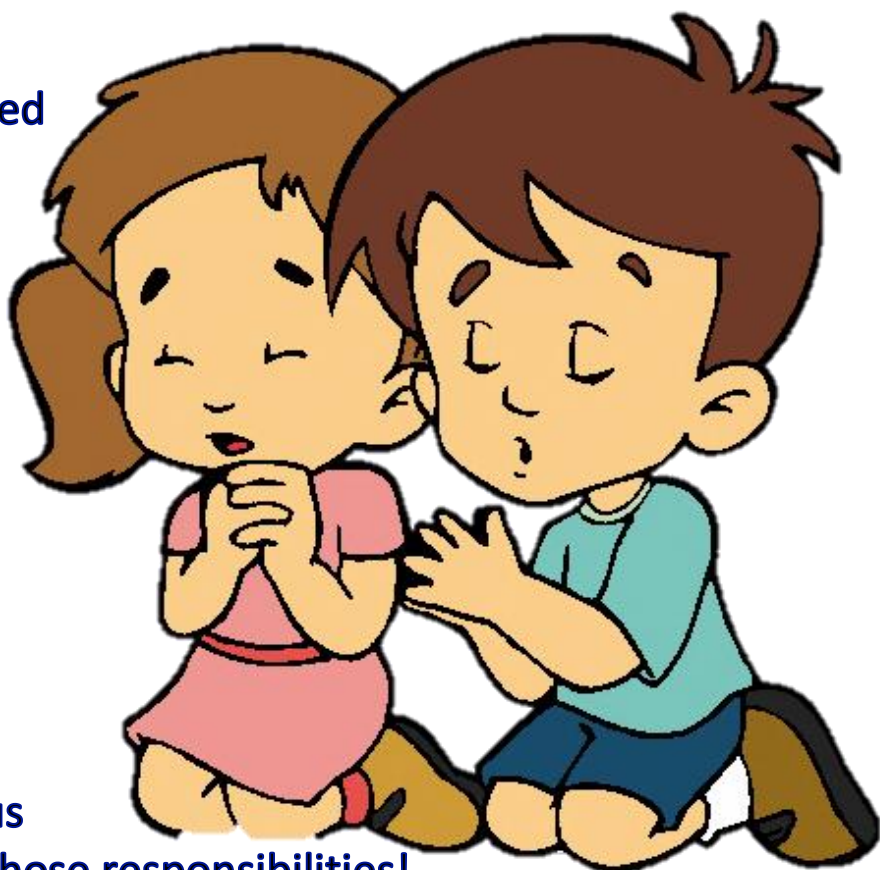
The people must have wondered what was going on.

They must have been asking why You didn't help them when they were in trouble.

But thinking about what happened to them helps me see that You are the King and not some sort of lucky charm.

Help me to remember how eager You are to rescue and help Your people always.

And help me to remember the responsibilities You've given to us as Your followers – and to fulfil those responsibilities!

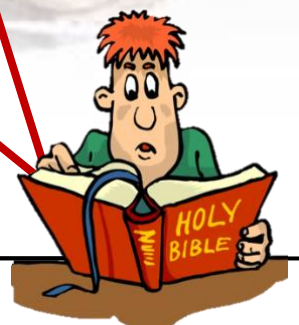


Today's verse for you to try and remember!



Why did the LORD bring
defeat on us today?

(1 Samuel 4.3)



Wordsearch

The Wordsearch is about the 'ark' of the covenant.

It's taken from 1 Samuel 4 and 5. See if you can find all the words!

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

Philistines Israelites cheribum tablets

manna gold rats God

Eli rod



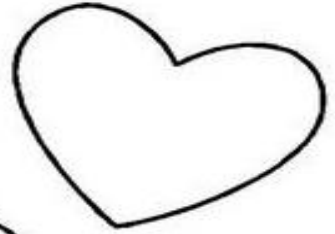
COLOUR in the picture



TRUST

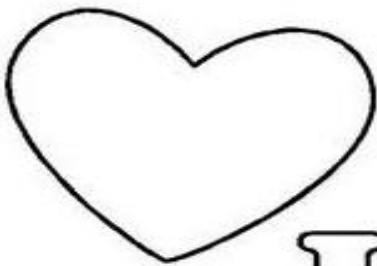


IN THE

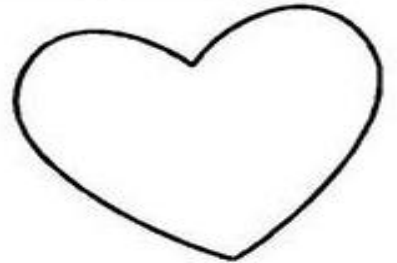


LORD

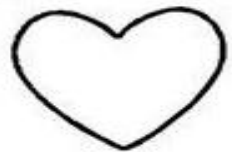
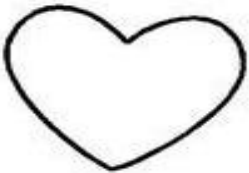
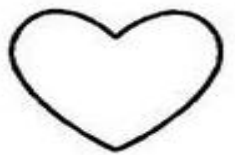
WITH ALL



YOUR



HEART



ANSWERS

to the challenge on Page 1

Team

- A Tottenham Hotspur
- B Liverpool F C
- C Borussia Dortmund
- D Arsenal
- E Celtic F C
- F Manchester United
- G Barcelona
- H Benfica
- I Dundee F C
- J RB Leipzig

Mascot Name

- Chirpy
- Mighty Red
- Emma
- Gunnersaurus ..
- Hoopy
- Fred the Red ..
- Clam
- Agua Vitoria ..
- Snappy Dee ..
- Bulli

