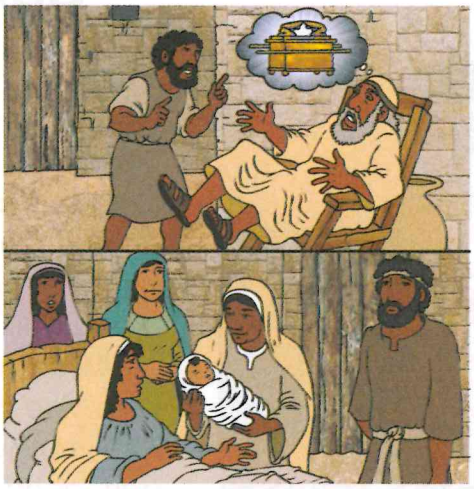
November 8, 2026

LESSON 10

Everything Goes Sideways



Lesson Scripture:
1 Samuel 4:14-20, 22

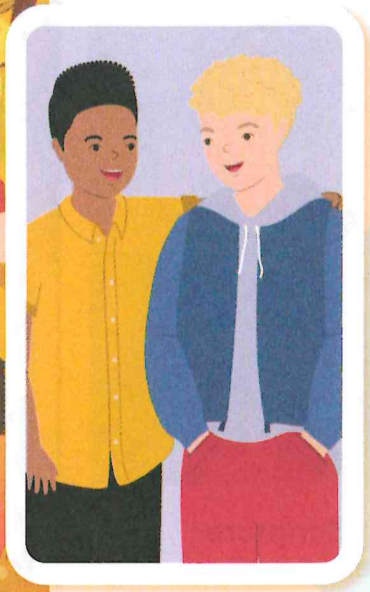
Key Verse

[The wife of Phinehas] said, "The Glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured." (1 Samuel 4:22)

At the time of today's Bible story, Eli was ninety-eight years old and nearly blind. When he heard a loud cry from the Israelites, he asked what was happening. An Israelite man who had fled from the battle gave Eli the bad news that everything had gone sideways. The Israelites had fled from the Philistines, and the army suffered great losses. Also, Eli's sons, Hophni [Hoff-knee] and Phinehas [Fin-EE-us], were dead, and the Philistines had taken the Ark of the Covenant. When Eli heard that the Ark had been captured, he believed that God had abandoned them. He fell backward off his chair, broke his neck, and died.

Eli's daughter-in-law, the wife of Phinehas, was pregnant. When she heard that the Ark of the Covenant was captured—and her husband and father-in-law were dead—her labor pains began. She died while giving birth; but before she died, the midwives tried to encourage her with the news that she had given birth to a son. She named her son Ichabod [Ick-uh-bod] (see verse 21, Background Scripture)—saying, "The glory has departed from Israel," because the Ark was captured and her husband and father-in-law were dead.

God Doesn't Seem to Hear Us



Joshua and Timothy were best friends and neighbors. They were always together. They went to the same church and school. They prayed for each other, and their families were friends.

One day at school, Mr. Huggins, the second-grade teacher, gave each student a note as he said, "For Thanksgiving, we are going to help a family. This note tells your parents what we are doing and ways that your family can help."

At break, Joshua said, "I have a lot of toys that I can give to help. Are you going to help?"

Timothy said, "My family is helping my grandparents, and my aunt needs help, too. She's sick."

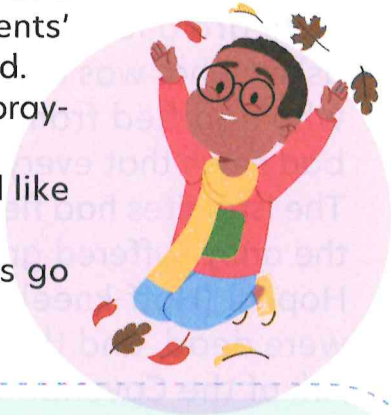
Joshua said, "I'm sorry to hear the bad news."

"My family is praying, but it seems like God doesn't hear us. We are at my grandparents' home a lot, and now my aunt needs help," Timothy explained.

Joshua commented, "I know God hears your prayers. I'm praying for you, too."

"Thanks," Timothy responded. "It's just a lot, and I feel like God has forgotten us."

"God hears and remembers us, especially when things go wrong," Joshua replied.



Exploring the Story in Ruby's Lab



Hello, all! Ruby here. I understand how Joshua felt. One day, I had a difficult test to complete in the lab, and I prayed and asked God for help. And it seemed like God didn't hear my prayer, because I struggled throughout the test. But when I received my B+, I realized that God heard me!

When you are being challenged, you may think that God doesn't hear your prayer, but He does. God is always listening and never abandons His children. As your teacher leads a class prayer, think about someone in need for whom you can pray. Your prayer can strengthen that person's trust in God.

Pinpoint the Answer

Discover a message about today's lesson by writing on each line the letter found at the *intersection* (crossing) of the numbers under that line. The first number represents the row and the second number represents the column where the letter is found. (For example, 4-1 is "C".)

	1	2	3
1	E	O	R
2	N	W	T
3	G	D	H
4	C	I	L
5	P	S	V

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3-1 1-2 3-2 5-2 5-1 1-3 1-1 5-2 1-1 2-1 4-1 1-1

2-2 4-2 2-3 3-3 3-3 4-2 5-2

5-1 1-1 1-2 5-1 4-3 1-1

Answer: The Ark of the Covenant was _____ _____ _____ _____ _____!



What's in God's Word?

Use your Bible to fill in the blanks of the statements from today's Scripture passages. Then, try to learn the verses in your own words.

1. The man hurried over to _____, who was _____ years old and whose eyes had failed so that he could not _____. (verses 14b-15)

2. "Also your two _____, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the _____ of God has been _____." (verse 17b)

3. [Eli's] neck was broken and he _____, for he was an _____ man, and he was heavy. He had led Israel _____ years. (verse 18b)

4. As she was dying, the women attending her said, "Don't _____; you have given birth to a _____." But she did not _____ or pay any attention. (verse 20)

5. She said, "The _____ has _____ from Israel, for the ark of God has been _____." (verse 22)





