

CLASS PLAN

TIME: 45 mins	
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome / Cheer• Run through boundaries with kids• Attendance / Fill in registration cards• Commit class and kids to God in prayer
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Story
10 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesson
20 mins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Huddle Time• Thanksgiving Box

STORY

PART 1: 1 SAM 4:3; 1 SAM 7

Israel vs Philistines

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19z7xpp5lG4QPJS5VIOefwP5Ybmn65fIN/view?usp=sharing>

The video doesn't reach the part about Ebenezer, so please end by explaining 1 Sam 7:12.

Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us."

LESSON

DON'T FOCUS ON SYMBOLS INSTEAD OF THE REAL THING

In the Bible, there are many symbols and shadows of Jesus.

For example, the cross. We identify that as a symbol of Jesus. People wear it as jewellery. Even rappers wear them. So do vampire fighters. But the cross in itself is just a symbol. It has no power. The cross is not Jesus.

The Israelites thought that as long as they had the Ark of the Covenant, God was with them. So they brought it to the battlefield ... and lost the battle, and the Ark.

GOD HAS NEVER LEFT US NOR FORSAKE US

When the Israelites turned to “the real thing”, God gave them victory over the Philistines by causing confusion among enemy.

To commemorate the victory, Samuel the prophet took a big stone and set it up, calling it ***Ebenezer***, which means, ***“Thus far the Lord has helped us.”***

MILESTONES

In our journey of life, there are ups and downs, happy times and sad times, good times and bad times. Certain events and incidences may stand out for us and leave a lasting impression. Through it all ... God never leaves us nor forsake us.

We need to remember these times. Like the Israelites, we need to set up milestones to help us remember all the good things God has done for us. We can also look back and say, “Thus far the Lord has helped us!”

Today is tNCC's 10th Anniversary. It is a good time to look back and recall what God has done for us as a church. For example ... [show slides with key milestones in church].

JESUS IS OUR EBENEZER

But just like the cross, the milestone or memory stone does not replace God. We need to focus on the Real Thing = Jesus. Jesus is our Ebenezer. Jesus is our Rock of Help.

tNCC is a church founded on celebrating Jesus, and His Finished Work on the Cross. So let's always remind ourselves to always fix our eyes on Jesus — the same Jesus, who helped us in the past, will help us today and every day of our lives. Praise the Lord!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME: PERSONAL MILESTONES

Using the worksheet below (or any other creative way), have each kid think through their personal milestones in life. E.g. started kindergarten, moved to a new house, had a baby brother etc. Get them to also mark out how they felt at each stage with a smiley face or sad face etc.

Encourage them to share about their journey in life and how God has been there for them through the years.

Pray for each other.

Name: _____



JESUS is my _____
My _____ of _____