



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Ready-to-Teach Lesson: The Glory Has Departed

1 Samuel 4:12-22 (English Standard Version)

When Preparation Time Is Short

This lesson has been selected from the complete Teacher Lesson and is ready to use. Begin with the two warm-up questions, read or play 1 Samuel 4:12-22, and continue through the activities in order. The writing task may be completed in class or assigned as homework. Teacher Awareness: This passage includes defeat, grief, and deaths, including a mother's death around childbirth. Use sensitive, age-appropriate language. Explain that the ark was a sacred chest associated with God's covenant and presence among Israel.

1) Warm-Up Questions

1. How can people show that they are worried?
2. Why should we speak gently when we bring difficult news?

2) Vocabulary

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
trembled	Shook with fear or worry; here, felt deep concern.	Why did Eli's heart tremble?
fled	Ran away from danger.	Who had fled before the Philistines?
captured	Taken and held by an enemy.	What had been captured?
departed	Left or went away.	What did the mother say had departed?

3) Bible Text Comprehension

1. What news did the messenger bring about Israel and Eli's sons?
2. What had happened to the ark of God?
3. What happened to Eli when he heard about the ark?
4. What did the mother name her son, and why?

4) Scripture Discussion

1. What does Eli's concern for the ark reveal about its importance?
2. How did Phinehas's wife connect her son's name with the news?

5) Speaking Practice

1. Retell 1 Samuel 4:12-22 in your own words.
2. Explain why Phinehas's wife named her son Ichabod.

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a short answer, invite a complete sentence: 'Can you tell me more?' 'What happened next?' or 'Can you say that in a complete sentence?' Correct gently and model the sentence when needed.

6) Writing Task

Writing

Summarize 1 Samuel 4:12-22 in 6-8 sentences. This may be completed during class or assigned as homework.

7) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up

The messenger reported Israel's defeat, the deaths of Hophni and Phinehas, and the capture of the ark. Eli died after hearing about the ark. Phinehas's wife gave birth and named her son Ichabod, saying that the glory had departed from Israel. **Remember:** "God's presence among His people is precious and must never be taken lightly." **Final Question:** Why was the capture of the ark such a serious loss for Israel?