



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

Teacher Page: The Glory Has Departed

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

Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using 1 Samuel 4:12-22 in the English Standard Version as the reading text.

New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy, which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes

Pronunciation Practice: The student can read along with the Scripture audio to practice English pronunciation with the teacher's help. The teacher may pause the audio after each verse or sentence so the student can repeat difficult words and phrases.

Lesson Resources

Scripture Text: 1 Samuel 4:12-22 ESV

Scripture Audio: 1 Samuel 4:12-22 ESV

The student may read along with the audio while the teacher pauses for pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

Theme: A messenger brought news of Israel's defeat, the deaths of Eli's sons, and the capture of the ark of God. Eli died when he heard about the ark. Phinehas's wife gave birth to a son and named him Ichabod, saying that the glory had departed from Israel.

English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, sequencing events, reporting news, describing feelings, discussion, speaking practice, and writing.

Outcome: The student can describe the messenger's news, explain how Eli and Phinehas's wife responded, and connect the name Ichabod with the capture of the ark.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while they study the ESV Scripture text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust the activities to fit the students' ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

Teacher Awareness

This passage includes defeat in battle, several deaths, grief, and a mother's death around childbirth. Use sensitive, age-appropriate language. Let students discuss the people in the passage without requiring them to share personal experiences of loss. Explain that the ark was a sacred chest associated with God's covenant and presence among Israel.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses to study and read aloud.
3. Ask what the assigned verses say and mean.
4. Put the principal events in chronological order.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along.
6. Review vocabulary and practice difficult pronunciation.
7. Use selected comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ How can people show that they are worried?
- ☐ Why should we speak gently when we bring difficult news?
- ☐ What can a person's name mean or remind us of?
- ☐ How can we show kindness to someone who is grieving?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
battle line	The place where soldiers face the enemy.	Where did the messenger come from?
trembled	Shook with fear or worry; here, felt deep concern.	Why did Eli's heart tremble?
uproar	A loud noise made by many people.	What did Eli hear in the city?
fled	Ran away from danger.	Who had fled before the Philistines?
defeat	A loss in a battle or contest.	What happened to Israel in the battle?
captured	Taken and held by an enemy.	What had been captured?
attending	Helping or caring for someone.	Who was attending Phinehas's wife?
departed	Left or went away.	What did the mother say had departed?

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ From which tribe was the man who brought the news?
- ☐ What did the messenger's torn clothes and dirt on his head show?
- ☐ Where was Eli sitting, and why was his heart trembling?
- ☐ How old was Eli, and what could he no longer do?
- ☐ What news did the messenger bring about Israel and Eli's sons?
- ☐ What had happened to the ark of God?
- ☐ What happened to Eli when he heard about the ark?
- ☐ How long had Eli judged Israel?
- ☐ What did the women tell Phinehas's wife after she gave birth?
- ☐ What did she name her son, and what did she say had departed?

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ What details show the grief of the messenger and the city?
- ☐ What does Eli's concern for the ark reveal about its importance?
- ☐ Why is the news about the ark central to this passage?
- ☐ How did Phinehas's wife connect her son's name with the news?
- ☐ Why does the passage repeat that the glory had departed?
- ☐ What can this passage teach us about taking God's presence seriously?

Language Coaching Tip

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

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- ☐ Retell 1 Samuel 4:12-22 in your own words.
- ☐ Report the messenger's news using three complete sentences.
- ☐ Describe Eli's concern and his response to the news.
- ☐ Explain why Phinehas's wife named her son Ichabod.
- ☐ Put these events in order: messenger arrives, city cries out, Eli hears, Eli dies, child is named.
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: How can we speak kindly to someone who has received difficult news?

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- ☐ Option A: Summarize 1 Samuel 4:12-22 in 6-8 sentences.
- ☐ Option B: Write a paragraph explaining the name Ichabod and its connection with the capture of the ark.
- ☐ Option C: Write the main events in chronological order.
- ☐ Option D: Write five sentences using these words: trembled, uproar, fled, captured, and departed.

9) 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?