

Lesson No. (8)

THE AWESOME ARK OF COVENANT AND THE TERRIBLE PLAGUE

References:

I Samuel 5,6.

Notes for Servants

- + When the Ark of the Covenant was taken into the Temple of Dagon and the Statue of Dagon fell face down on the ground. Likewise, when Christ enters your heart, He will drive all sins out.
- + The Ark of the Covenant struck the Philistines when it was among them and those who received the Holy Communion without repentance or without being prepared will suffer the same thing.

Objectives

General: Showing reverence to the Sanctuary, the Service vessels and the icons.

Specific:

The children will be able to...

- A. Understand the importance of the Ark of the Covenant.
- B. Learn how the Israelites used to treat the Ark.
- C. Relate between the Ark and the Altar.

Bible Verse

"Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever."

(Psalm 93:5)

Teaching Aids

A model of the Ark of the Covenant containing the tables of the Covenant, the urn holding the manna and Aaron's rod, pictures of all these, the picture of the lesson or draw all these things on the blackboard.

Instruction

- (1) Review last week's lesson.
- (2) Who remembers the verse?
- (3) Remind the children about the church occasions for the coming week.

Story Time

- + What were the contents of the Ark of the Covenant?
- + What does it stand for? Who were dedicated to serve it?

There was once a terrible war between the Philistines and the Ancient People. The Philistines defeated the Israelites and took the Ark of the Covenant. The Israelites were ashamed of themselves and were very sad. The Philistines took the Ark and put it in their temple of Dagon with great delight. They exercised their pagan rites (prayers, fire, dancing, etc.) Then, they went to bed. Next morning they were surprised to find Dagon with its face to the ground. They were ashamed of that. They set it up again. The upper half of the statue of Dagon was in the form of a man and the lower part in the form of a fish. Early the following morning they saw that the statue had again fallen down in front of the Covenant Box. This time its head and both its arms were broken off and were lying in the doorway. What a shame! They went back home with severe pain and tumours. The next morning, they went with difficulty to their fields and mice devoured the crops.

The leaders of the Philistines gathered. The problem must be solved. (Describe the scene and the conversations about the Covenant Box.) They put it on a wagon. They took two cows and hitched them to the wagon. The cows started off on the road, they knew their way and the Philistines followed them. The people took the Covenant Box with great respect. The Lord blessed that city which honoured the Covenant Box.

Discussion

- 1 - Follow up the story by talking about it with the children.
- 2 - Continue the discussion while they do the activity.

Learning Activities

Activity Sheet.