

# THE ARK'S BIG ADVENTURE



The Israelites were fighting the Philistines, but they were losing.

“Let’s bring the Ark to help us win!” they said.

They carried the Ark to the battlefield, cheering loudly.

**But oh no**—the Philistines won the battle and captured the Ark!



**Back home, an old priest named Eli heard the bad news.**

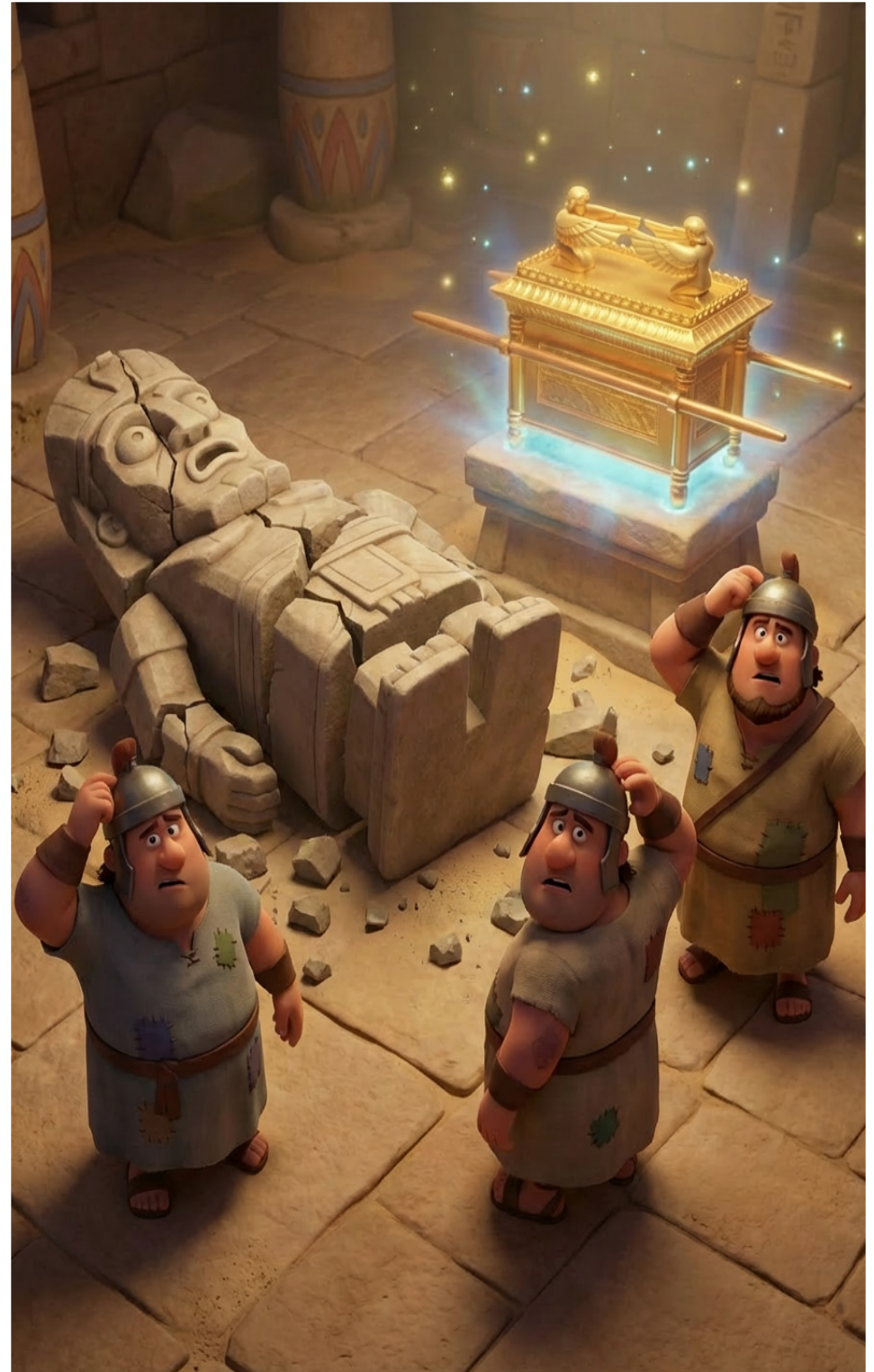
**His sons had been in the battle and didn't come back, and the Ark was gone.**

**Eli was so shocked that he fell over. Everyone was sad, but God had a plan.**



The Philistines took the Ark to their city of Ashdod and put it in the temple of their statue god, Dagon.

But the next morning, Dagon had fallen flat on his face! They fixed him, but he fell again and broke. “**Wow, the real God is stronger!**” they thought.



Soon, strange things happened to the Philistines.

They got itchy bumps, and mice ran everywhere!

They moved the Ark to other cities like Gath and Ekron, but the same troubles followed.

**“This Ark is bringing bad luck!”**  
they cried.



The Philistine leaders met and said, “**We must return the Ark to the Israelites!**”

Their priests suggested sending gifts too—golden models of the bumps and mice—to say sorry.

They put everything on a new cart pulled by two cows.



**The cows pulled the cart straight to the Israelite town of Beth Shemesh, without anyone guiding them.**

**The Israelites were so happy!  
They cheered and thanked  
God.**

**The Ark was back where it  
belonged.**

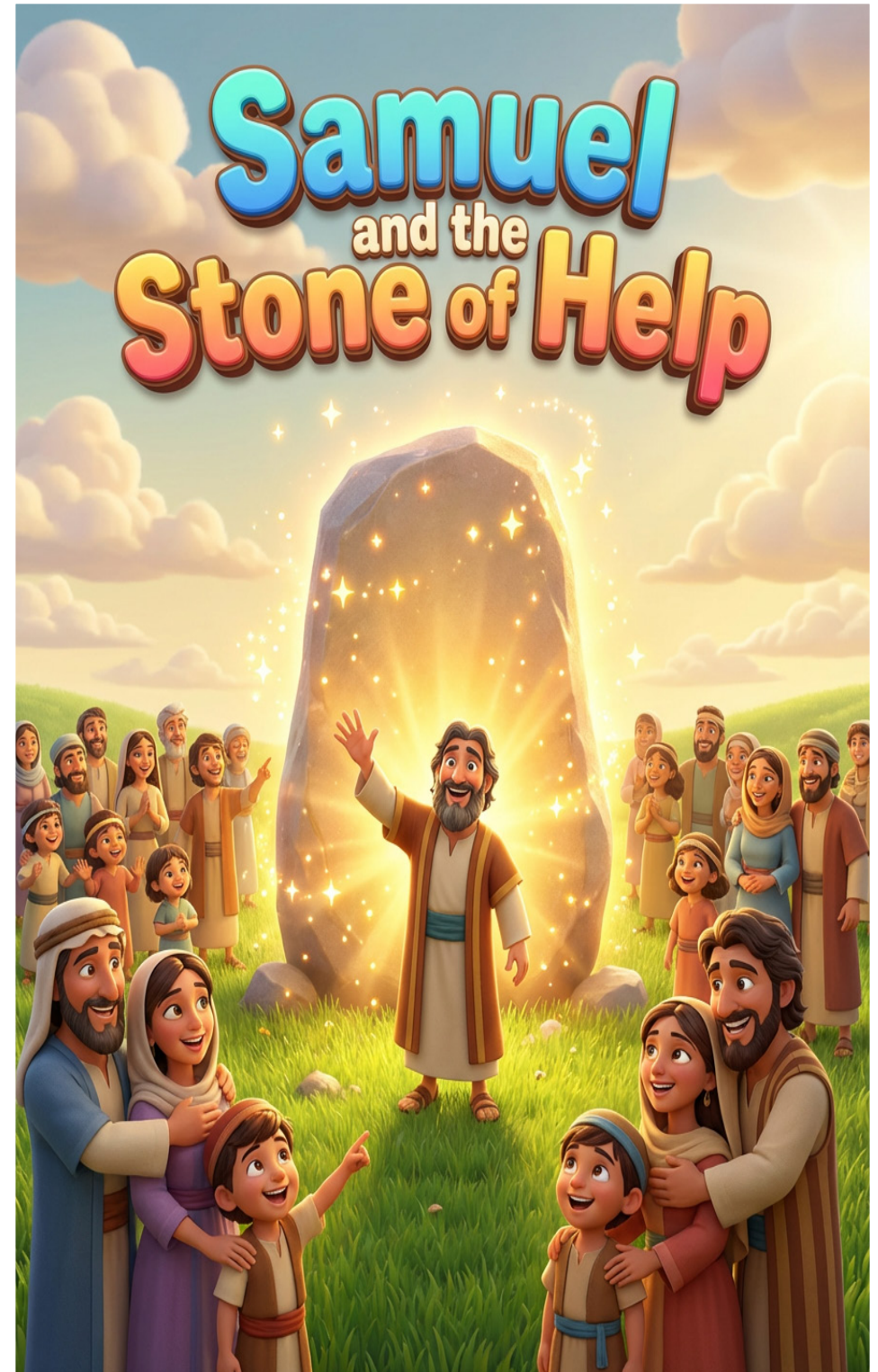


**But some people peeked inside the Ark when they shouldn't have, and God reminded everyone to respect His special things.**

**From then on, the Ark stayed safe, teaching us that God is powerful and loves us when we listen to Him. The end!**



Long ago, God's people, the Israelites, had forgotten to follow Him. But a wise man named Samuel helped them remember. Come along for a story of bravery, thunder, and a special stone!



For many years, the special Ark stayed safe in a town called Kiriath Jearim.

The people were sad because they had turned away from God and worshiped pretend gods.

But Samuel said, “If you really want to follow God, put away those fake idols and love Him with all your heart!”



The people listened to Samuel.  
They gathered at a place  
called Mizpah.

There, they poured out water  
as a sign of their sorry hearts,  
fasted from food, and said,  
“We have done wrong against  
God.”

Samuel prayed for them like a  
good friend.



But uh-oh! The mean Philistines heard about the gathering and came to fight.

The Israelites were scared and said to Samuel, “Please keep praying to God to save us!”

Samuel offered a little lamb as a gift to God and cried out for help.



**God heard Samuel's prayer!  
He sent a huge thunderclap  
that confused the Philistines.**

**They ran around in a panic,  
and the Israelites chased them  
away. What a victory! God  
helped His people that day.**



After the battle, Samuel took a big stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen.

He named it Ebenezer, אֶבֶן הָעֵזֶר, romanized: 'ében hā'ēzer, lit. which means 'the stone of help'. It was a reminder of God's love and power.



**From then on, there was peace in the land. Samuel traveled around as a judge, helping people follow God.**

**Everyone learned that when we turn to Him, He is always there to help. The end!**



