



God is the One True God

– Worship Him!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

Children learn God is supreme – idols may sparkle, but only God satisfies. There is no other power or idol that can stand before Him! So, He alone deserves to be worshipped.

Bible Lesson: Philistines Take the Ark; Capture of the Ark
Provokes God; Dagon Falls Down

Bible References: 1 Samuel Chapters 4-7

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Ten Commandments
2. Stars and planets
3. Child standing on rock
4. Allegiance, e.g. to the flag
5. Israel and Philistines in battle
6. The Ark of the Covenant
7. The contents of the Ark of the Covenant
8. Israel and Philistines in battle with the Ark in the middle
9. Dagon fallen over
10. Dagon broken
11. The universe (something to represent God)
12. Child worshipping in Church

Words:

1. God hates idols!
Part of the Ten Commandments says:
'You shall have no other gods before Me.
You shall not make for yourself a carved image...
You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a
jealous God...' (*Exodus 20:3-5*)
God insists on our undivided worship.

2. And God deserves our undivided worship!
Why?
Because He is the Creator and Sustainer.
He made us, and He continually strengthens and provides for us in every way.
He holds everything together! (*Colossians 1:17*)
Everything exists because He says so.
3. God deserves our undivided worship because He is perfectly holy and loving.
He is not flawed: He has no weakness and no imperfections.
He is always faithful.
He is loyal to you and steadfast, which means He never wavers, and you can depend on Him!
4. God deserves our undivided worship because He is the only One who is worthy of our loyalty.
You can love and serve your family, friends and country.
Even then, people will let you down, but God never will.
He must come first.
5. The Philistines went to battle against Israel.
They met and fought in a field, and 4,000 Israelites were killed.
After they had run away, the Israelites wondered why they had been defeated.
Instead of praying and asking God the reason why the battle had gone so disastrously wrong for them, they came up with their own idea about how to win the next fight.
Although it had never been done before, they would take the Ark of the Covenant from the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle and carry it into the fight.
That way, they were sure to win!
6. What is the Ark of the Covenant?
The Ark of the Covenant was a special, golden box crafted by the Israelites according to God's exact design.
It was made of acacia wood and covered in pure gold, inside and out.
It was about the size of a large toy chest or a small coffee table.
(1.13m long, 0.68m wide and 0.68m high)
It had gold rings on the sides.
Long poles made of wood covered in gold were slipped through the rings so the Ark of the Covenant could be carried.
Only certain priests could carry it, and they had to be very careful and respectful.
On top was a golden cover called the Mercy Seat.
Two golden angels called cherubim were placed on the lid, facing each other, with their wings stretched out and touching.
This was where God said He would speak to Moses.
The Ark of the Covenant was holy and very important to God and to His people.

7. Inside the Ark of the Covenant were special objects.
 The **Ten Commandments**—the stone tablets with God's rules, given to Moses on Mount Sinai.
 A jar of **manna**—the special food God gave His people in the desert.
 Aaron's **staff**—a stick with almond buds that showed God had chosen him as a leader.
 The Ark of the Covenant was the symbol of God's presence.
 It went ahead of the Israelites whenever they travelled.
 It reminded everyone to follow God's ways and to trust Him.

8. When the Israelites saw the Ark of the Covenant coming onto the battlefield, they gave such a cheer that the ground shook!
 When the Philistines heard it and saw the Ark, they were afraid.
 'Oh-oh,' they said, 'God has come into the battle.'
 They knew this was the God who had struck the Egyptians with all the plagues!
 They told each other to be strong, to act like men, and to fight.
 So the Philistines fought, and they killed thousands of Israelites, and captured the Ark of the Covenant.

9. The triumphant Philistines carried the Ark of the Covenant into the temple of their false god Dagon.
 Dagon was a carved idol that looked like a man with a fish tail.
 And they set the Ark of the Covenant down next to it overnight.
 When they came back in the morning, Dagon had fallen over.
 The face of the idol was on the ground.

10. The Philistines picked their idol up and set him in place again.
 When they came in the next morning, Dagon had fallen over again.
 And this time, its head and both the palms of its hands had broken off.
 No false god could stand in the presence of the one true God!
 God was angry because of being disrespected.
 He struck the Philistines with tumours, and as people began to die, the Philistines decided they had to send the Ark of the Covenant back.

11. The broken statue of Dagon showed that God is holy and powerful.
 He won't be treated like just another object or idol.
 The Dagon idol was powerless and helpless.
 God protected His name and was in full control of the situation.

12. God wants His people to have hearts that are fully devoted to Him.
 You may think worshipping God on Sundays and not having a half-fish, half-man statue in your house is enough.
 But God wants you to love Him with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. (*Deuteronomy 6:5*)
 With everything you have!
 As you get closer to God, you will get to know Him more and more, and you will love Him more and more.
 Then it's easy to worship Him wherever you are and whenever you can.
 Nothing and no one will compare to Him!

Ministry to the Children: What are Modern-Day Idols?

Question: *“What do you think the word ‘idol’ means?”*

Answer: *An idol is an image or representation of a god used as an act of worship.
Or a person or thing that is the object of extreme devotion and reverence.*

Explain that in Bible times, idols were statues that people worshipped instead of God. But today, idols can look very different.

Invite the children to think and share:

- Are there things people love more than God?
- What do people spend lots of time thinking about, talking about, or chasing after?
- Can money, fame, or popularity become idols?
- What about sports stars, singers, or influencers—can they become idols if we admire them too much?

Encourage reflection: *“Is there anything in your life that sometimes takes God’s place in your heart? If so, it may lead you to do what God says not to do – because pleasing that person or thing becomes more important than obeying Him. That’s when it becomes an idol.”*

Remind them: God wants to be our number one—not because He’s bossy, but because He loves us best and knows what’s good for us.

Unsaved Child: You were made to worship God! God wants to be your heavenly Father, but unless you are perfect (without sin), He can’t be near to you because He is holy. God saw the problem and fixed it. He sent His perfect Son, Jesus, to die for your sins. Jesus was crucified on the cross, but God raised Him from the dead. Remember, God is powerful! If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. (*Romans 10:9-14*)

Memory Verse: 1 John 5:21

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Chant or Song:

Because this Scripture is so short, try this rhythmic chant with claps and actions:

Little children — clap, clap
Keep away — stomp, stomp
From idols — point away!
1 John 5:21 — shout it loud!

Game: Knock 'Em Down!

You will need:

- 6 to 10 empty plastic bottles (same size works best) and tape a picture of an 'idol' on the front of each (social media, movie or pop star, gaming, etc.)
- 1 ball (tennis ball, soft rubber ball, or beanbag)
- A flat surface (indoor or outdoor)
- Masking tape or chalk to mark throwing lines

What to do:

- Arrange the bottles in a triangle or pyramid shape:
3 rows: 3 bottles in front, 2 in the middle, 1 at the back
Or a bowling-style triangle: 1-2-3-4 formation
- Mark a throwing line about 2–3 metres away (adjust for age/skill level).
- Assign turns: Each child gets 1–3 throws per round.

How to Play:

- Stand behind the line and throw the ball to knock down as many bottles as possible.
- Score points:
 - 1 point per bottle knocked down
 - Reset the bottles after each player's turn.
 - Play multiple rounds and tally scores.

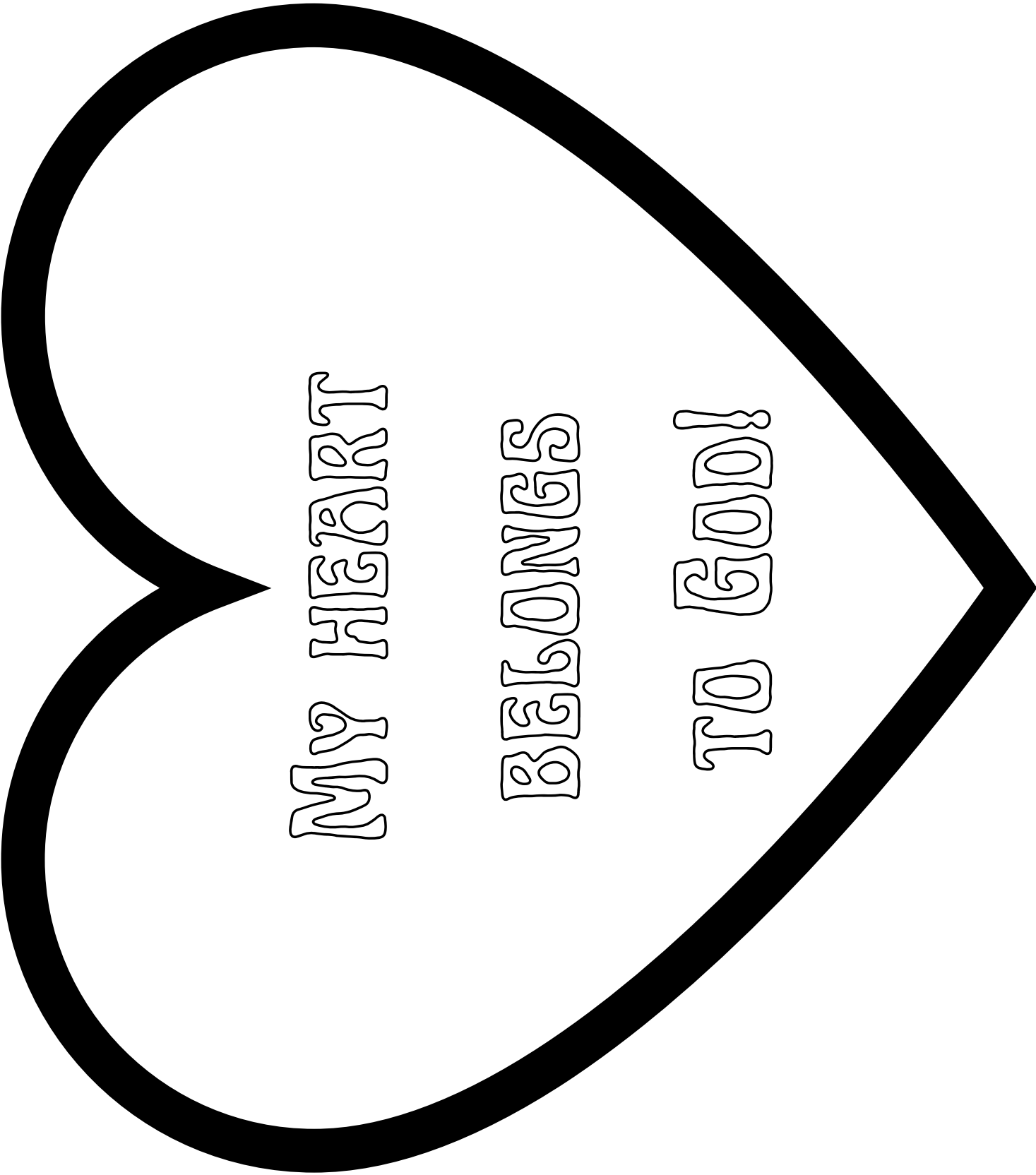
Craft: My Heart Belongs to God! Collage

You Will Need:

- Large paper heart
- Scissors
- Glue
- Felt pens
- Decorative items (washi tape, stickers, sequins, etc.)

What to Do:

- Children colour and decorate the heart and the wording.



MY HEART

BELONGS

TO GOD!