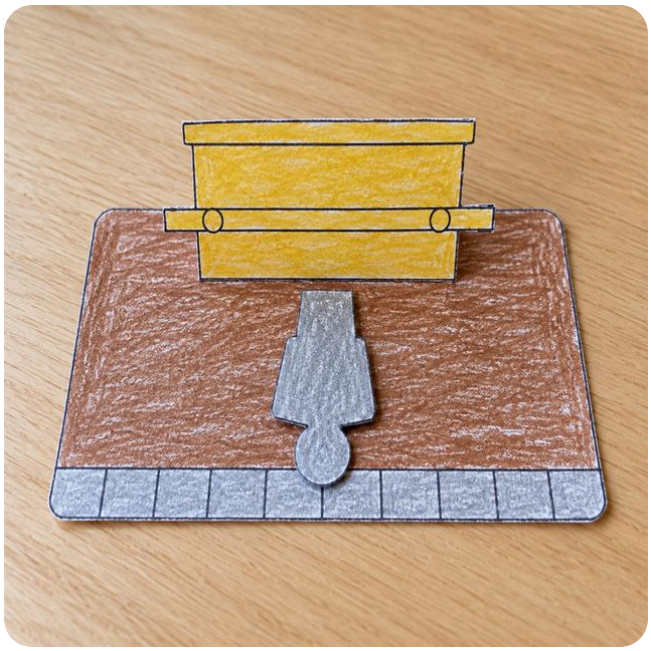
Preschool–Grade 5

Dagon and the Ark Craft

Fallen before the ark of the LORD · 1 Samuel 5 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



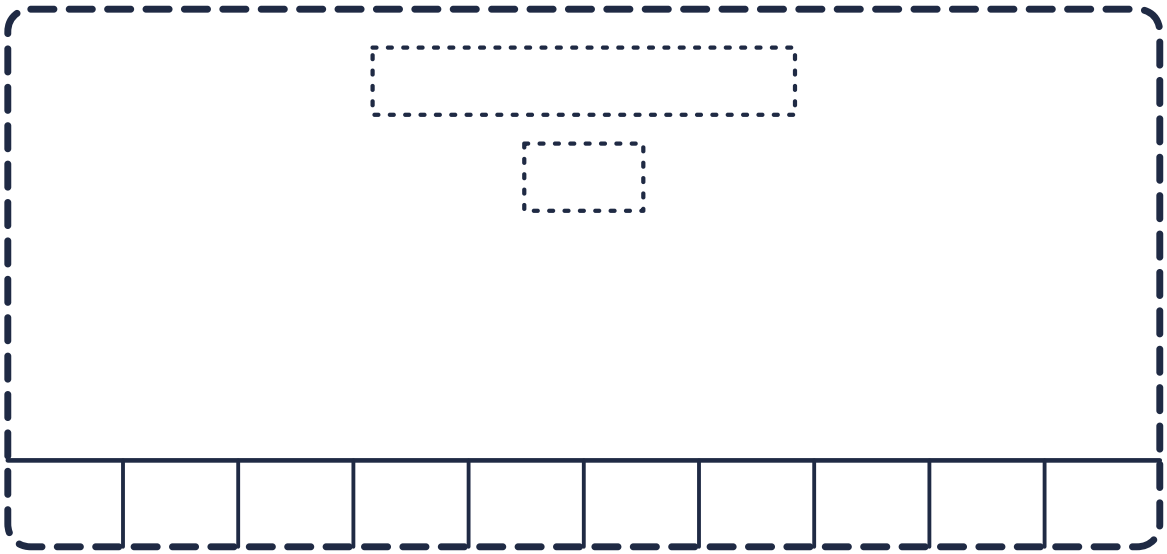
Harder

Both levels are a brown floor card for the house of Dagon at Ashdod, with a gray threshold (doorstep) along the front. The yellow ark of God, with its carrying staves, stands at the back. In front of it stands Dagon, a plain gray statue, and when you push him he falls flat on his face before the ark: "Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD" (1 Samuel 5:3). Medium (left): Dagon fallen on his face, whole, the first morning. Harder (right): the second morning, with Dagon's head and both palms lying upon the threshold and "only the stump of Dagon" left (5:4).

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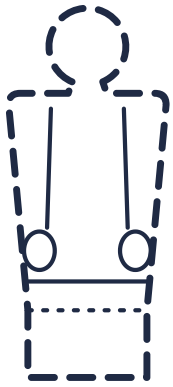
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



floor card: floor brown, threshold (the band along the front edge) gray
glue the ark's tab on the wide dotted box and Dagon's tab on the small one



ark: color it all yellow, for gold
fold the tab back on the dotted line



Dagon: gray on both sides
fold the tab back

**And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow,
behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth
before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon,
and set him in his place again.**

1 Samuel 5:3 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the floor card

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the floor card, the ark, Dagon and the verse strip.

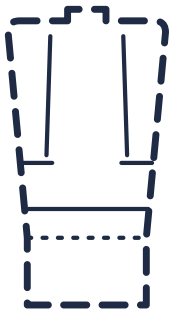
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Name: _____

✂ Harder level

Dagon on the second morning (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Fold the tab on the dotted line.



the stump: gray on both sides



head: gray



both palms: gray

How to make the second morning

1. Make the floor card and the ark from page 2. Leave out the Dagon on page 2: use these pieces instead.
2. Color the stump, the head and both palms gray. Cut them out on the dashed lines. Fold the stump's tab back on the dotted line.
3. Glue the stump's tab on the small dotted box in front of the ark, so it stands up.
4. Tell the first morning: hold the head on top of the stump and push Dagon forward onto his face before the ark (1 Samuel 5:3). Stand him up again: "they took Dagon, and set him in his place again" (5:3).
5. Tell the second morning: push the stump forward onto its face again. Lay the head and both palms on the gray threshold and glue them there: "the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him" (5:4).

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/dagon-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock stands best), brown, gray and yellow crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the floor card, the ark, Dagon and the verse strip, and fold the tabs back.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and fold the tabs. Kids color. You help glue the ark and Dagon on the floor card and the verse strip on the back. Then the kids push Dagon over.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out, fold and glue the pieces themselves. This is the craft in the first photo: Dagon fallen on his face before the ark, the first morning.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the floor card and the ark like the medium level, but use the Dagon pieces from page 3: a stump with a loose head and two loose palms. Kids tell both mornings, and the head and palms end up on the threshold (1 Samuel 5:4). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the floor card:** the floor brown and the threshold (the band along the front edge) gray.
2. **Color the ark and Dagon:** the ark all yellow, for gold. Dagon gray on both sides.
3. **Cut:** cut out the floor card, the ark, Dagon and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
4. **Fold:** fold the tabs of the ark and of Dagon back on the dotted lines.
5. **Glue:** glue the ark's tab on the wide dotted box at the back of the floor card, so the ark stands up. Glue Dagon's tab on the small dotted box in front of the ark, so Dagon stands in front of it.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the floor card. Read it together.
7. **Tell it:** the Philistines "set it by Dagon" (1 Samuel 5:2). Push Dagon forward so he lies on his face in front of the ark: "Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD" (5:3). Stand him up again: "they took Dagon, and set him in his place again" (5:3). Leave him fallen at the end.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the ark. What did the Philistines do with the ark of God? *(They brought it from Eben-ezer to Ashdod, into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon, 1 Samuel 5:1–2)*
- Point to Dagon. What was Dagon? *(An idol, a statue people made and called their god, 5:7)*
- Push Dagon over. What did the people of Ashdod find early in the morning? *(Dagon fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD, 5:3)*
- Who had to stand Dagon up again? *(The people: "they took Dagon, and set him in his place again," 5:3)*
- What happened the second morning? *(He fell again; his head and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump was left, 5:4)*
- Where did the Philistines send the ark after Ashdod? *(To Gath, then to Ekron, 5:8, 5:10)*
- Who is the one true God? *(The LORD: "The LORD our God is one LORD," Deuteronomy 6:4)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: the ark** was a chest of wood covered with gold, with staves (carrying poles) through rings at its sides (Exodus 25:10–14); **arose early on the morrow** means got up early the next morning; **behold** means look; **threshold** means the doorstep; **stump** means the part that was left; **abide** means stay.
- **What the Bible says:** Exodus 25:18 says two cherubims of gold were on the ark's lid. The craft leaves them off to keep the ark simple. 1 Samuel 5 doesn't say what Dagon looked like or what he was made of, so he is a plain gray statue with no face. The floor, the colors and the shapes are the craft's simple picture of the story.
- **Dagon is an idol, not a god:** say it plainly. Kids push him over; he never gets a place of honor.
- **Keep it gentle:** 1 Samuel 5:6–12 tells of sickness and deaths in the Philistine cities. With kids, say only that "the hand of the LORD was heavy upon them."
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and fold the tabs. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child push Dagon over and stand him up again.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Dagon and the ark lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/dagon.

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