

LESSON 58

The Ark of God

2 SAMUEL 6:1-8



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD IS HOLY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 58)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 58

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Procession of the Ark

SUPPLIES: an ark made out of a copy paper box wrapped in gold foil; skateboard or another wheeled toy for the cart; percussion instruments

What Is in the Box?

SUPPLIES: cutouts of the items that were placed in the ark (jar of manna, Aaron’s staff that had budded, and the stone tablets of the covenant); bag or box

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see that God is holy.

Ask the children to name some of the things they've been told by their parents not to touch. (examples: hot toasters and ovens; sharp knives and scissors; delicate, easily broken china and crystal; cuts on their bodies that need to be kept clean.)

Practice by telling them not to touch their knees, and then not to touch their faces. It will be increasingly difficult for them to comply because they will forget. Then have fun and tell them not to touch the floor.

After settling them down, tell the children that we don't always know why people tell us not to touch things, but we don't have to. If we trust the person, like our parents, then we obey because we trust them, not because we understand. This is how we must obey God, too, when he says not to do something.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 58, "The Ark of God," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What is the ark?

(The ark was a wooden chest covered with gold that contained the Ten Commandments and other holy things. God's presence went with the ark.)

What was David trying to do with the ark?

(David had just won a battle for Jerusalem, and he wanted to bring the ark into that great city.)

What happened to the ark along the way?

(When the oxen stumbled, Uzzah reached out to steady the cart and touched the ark and was killed.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

Why did God kill Uzzah for touching the ark?

(God wanted to help his people know that he was holy and they were sinful. God had told them not to touch the holy furniture of the temple. They had been instructed to cover it with hides and carry it with special poles, but the Israelites did not follow God's command.)

Why were the men who brought the ark to the city happy?

(The Lord had given the Israelites victory over their enemies, and now the presence of the Lord was returning to Jerusalem to dwell. They were excited about God!)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Exodus 25:16–22

David celebrated the return of the ark because it represented the presence of the Lord. In fact, the cover of the ark is called the atonement cover (Exodus 25:17 NIV). This pointed forward to Jesus who died to atone or pay for our sins. Now that Jesus has come, he has made the final atonement for the sins of men. Now there is a new dwelling place for God—in the hearts of men. In a sense, every Christian is a living ark. The presence of God is in us!

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 58—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

What mistake did Uzzah make?

(He touched the ark.)

Why was touching the ark not allowed?

(because the ark represented God who is holy and must be honored)

How did God intend for the ark to be carried?

(God designed the ark with rings for poles to be inserted to carry the ark.)

The Procession of the Ark

SUPPLIES:

cardboard ark made out of a box wrapped in gold foil

skateboard or other wheeled toy for the cart

percussion instruments

Use the ark on the skateboard to reenact the Israelites' procession. Two of the children can play the part of the oxen and two others can play the parts of Uzzah and Ahio. The rest of the class can be given tambourines and other instruments to celebrate with.

Instruct the "oxen" to shake the cart, and give "Uzzah" the cue to touch the ark to steady it. Uzzah should then fall to the ground and pretend to die. At that point the skit is over.

Explain to the class that God had given special instructions for moving the ark. Read Numbers 4:15. Talk with them about sin, God's holiness, and how Jesus died to take away the sins of the world.

What Is in the Box?

SUPPLIES:

cutouts of a jar of manna, Aaron's staff, and the stone tablets of the covenant
(see Hebrews 9:4 for what the ark contained)
box or bag to hold the cutouts

Pull the cutouts out of a box or bag at random and see if the class can guess what they are. For each item, explain why it was important and why God wanted to keep it before the people.

- The tablets represented God's rule and law.
- The manna represented God's provision for his people.
- The staff represented God's mercy to provide a priesthood to intercede on behalf of Israel.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

