

LESSON 58

The Ark of God

2 SAMUEL 6



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD IS HOLY

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read 2 Samuel 6 from the Scriptures or read story 58, “The Ark of God,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **10 MIN**
Can Fear Be a Good Thing?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ iron
 - ✓ ironing board
 - ✓ a hankie or bandanna
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Honoring Her Husband and God
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Coloring Activity
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page 58—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **15 MIN**
Dance with All Your Might
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ guitar or other musical instrument along with a person to lead lively worship songs
 - ✓ several tambourines or other rhythmic instruments for selected children to use

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

God’s holiness is to be treated seriously—By this point in God’s story, King Saul is dead and David has become king of Israel and is moving the ark of God to Jerusalem.

But the Israelites and even David have forgotten that the ark is holy and not to be carried on a cart. It is to be carried with two poles slipped through rings attached to the sides of the ark (1 Chronicles 15:12–15). They have also forgotten the reason for the poles: the ark is so holy that anyone who touches it will die (Numbers 4:15). So even though Uzzah is only trying to help when he reaches out to steady the ark, he is immediately killed.

David and all of Israel were rejoicing before the Lord about the ark coming to Jerusalem. But when Uzzah dies instantly they are afraid and learn what it means to have a holy fear of God.

The ark is treated as holy—Three months after Uzzah’s death, David returns for the ark with the Levites, the priests of Israel. Having studied the law of Moses they know how to carry the ark properly (and safely), using poles as God had originally commanded. Knowing now that the ark of God is holy, David stops the procession after every six steps to offer sacrifices to God. He now knows that God’s holiness cannot be treated casually, and he understands that blood must be shed in order to pay for sin.

David rejoices before the Lord and the people—David comes into Jerusalem leaping and dancing—hardly appropriate actions for a king. But David’s joy over the ark’s return will not be contained. He is so excited that the ark of God—the presence of God—is with them in their capital city.

When Michal, Saul’s daughter, comments on David’s display, David corrects her, reminding her that the Lord has chosen him as king over her father. David doesn’t care what other people think of his dancing for he was worshiping the Lord because the ark of God was once again with the people of God.

WHERE IS JESUS? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Read 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!

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read 2 Samuel 6 from the Scriptures or read story 58, "The Ark of God," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Can Fear Be a Good Thing?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ iron
- ✓ ironing board
- ✓ a hankie or bandanna

The object of this activity is to help children to understand the fear of the Lord.

Plug in the iron, but turn it off so that it is cold.

When the children come in, read the story aloud.

Pick up the iron and touch it very quickly saying, “That will do just fine.” Shake your finger as if the iron is very hot.

Ask the children what you do with an iron as you iron something (choose something with no wrinkles to add to the charade). When the children explain what an iron does, pick up the cloth and show them how good of a job it does. Tell them it works by getting very hot. Unplug the iron, and then quickly take it to the front row and put it close to the children so they pull themselves away. (Remember the iron is cold this whole time.)

Then ask the class the following questions:

Why are the children close to the iron moving back? Are they afraid?

(They are afraid of getting burned.)

Why is fear a good thing sometimes?

(It protects us from foolish behavior and saves us from hurting ourselves.)

Was it good that David was afraid of God the day Uzzah died?

(Yes, the ark was not being treated with the respect God intended. The ark represented the presence of God who is holy and must destroy all sin. In fact, all of us would be killed if God came right here and did not protect us from his presence. The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. After the tragedy with Uzzah, David came back with Levite priests and carried the ark properly.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Honoring Her Husband and God

Read 2 Samuel 6:16–23. Then ask the class the following questions:

Who was Michal?

(Most are likely going to say the daughter of Saul rather than the wife of David.)

Would it surprise you to find out that Michal was David's wife?

(They will likely be surprised. If not, simply continue with the questions.)

Why is it shocking to find out that Michal is David's wife?

(Michal is bitter and does not show David love.)

What should Michal have been doing?

(Michal should have been honoring David and celebrating with the rest of Israel before the ark of God.)

What was God's judgment against Michal?

(She remained barren until her death.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 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.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 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.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Dance with All Your Might

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ guitar or other musical instrument along with a person to lead lively worship songs
- ✓ several tambourines or other rhythmic instruments for selected children to use

Pick a lively worship chorus that the children will know. Tell them that we have something even more remarkable than the ark coming back to Jerusalem. The ark represented the presence of the Lord among his people. We have Jesus who came to earth to live among us and die for our sins so that he could rise again, return to his Father in heaven, and send us his Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit does not just represent God. The Holy Spirit is God and is active in the lives of every believer. So, when you believe in Jesus, the very presence of God that fell upon the ark comes to live within you. That is worth celebrating.

Read Psalm 150:4–6: “Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!”

Hand out the tambourines and other instruments, and explain to the children that you are going to march around the room while singing and making music to celebrate the presence of God among his people.

