

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**
Treat It with Care and Respect
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ a decorative, delicate Christmas ornament
 - ✓ a pipe wrench
 - ✓ a crystal wineglass
 - ✓ a ceramic figurine
 - ✓ a boot
 - ✓ a light bulb
 - ✓ a framed wedding photo
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Different Peace Offerings
6. **WORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Uzzah and the Ark
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper coloring page 58—one copy for each child
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **15 MIN**
Dance Like David

TOTAL 85 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Barren

To be barren means to be without children and to be unable to have children. God is clearly portrayed in Scripture as the one who opens and closes a woman's womb, see Genesis 20:18

and Exodus 23:26. Fruitfulness in childbirth was promised to Israel if they would worship the Lord (Exodus 23:26). God sometimes allows a woman to be barren so that his blessing of children might bring him glory as in the lives of Sarah, Abraham’s wife, or Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Michal’s barrenness is clearly a consequence of her contempt for her husband’s leaping and dancing before the Lord.

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

Treat It with Care and Respect

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a decorative, delicate Christmas ornament
- ✓ a pipe wrench

- ✓ a crystal wineglass
- ✓ a ceramic figurine
- ✓ a boot
- ✓ a light bulb
- ✓ a framed wedding photo

Note: Don't bring in anything too precious—the children will be handling it.

The object of this lesson is to help the children understand holiness and why the ark had to be carried in a certain way.

Divide the class into groups, and give each group an object. (Take note of any cautionary statements that come from within the groups like, “Be careful, you’ll break it.”) Ask each group to come up with directions on what to tell movers who will be transporting the item. Ask each group to appoint a spokesperson who can share with the rest of the class the results of the group’s discussion.

As a class, choose the object that needs to be handled with the most care.

Then ask the class the following questions:

- **Why does the ark of God need special instructions to move it?**
(Although the ark could be physically broken, God especially commanded that the ark be carried with poles and rings because the ark was the resting place for God’s glory and could not be handled carelessly by sinful men.)
- **Did the Israelites follow God’s instructions?**
(No, they put the ark on a cart drawn by oxen. It should have been carried by Levites with poles as God instructed.)
- **Why did God kill Uzzah for touching the ark?**
(God killed Uzzah because the ark was holy; it was special and set apart for a sinless God who is completely different than men. To touch the ark was to disregard God’s holiness.)
- **Which of the objects that you evaluated would you move on an open cart?**
(Maybe just the pipe wrench and boot because they’re not breakable. Breakable things need special treatment.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

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

OBJECT LESSON 2 10 MIN

Different Peace Offerings

Compare David’s peace (fellowship) offering in 2 Samuel 6:10–23 with Saul’s offering in 1 Samuel 13:5–15. What’s the difference between the two offerings?

See the “Teaching Points” section above. Also note that unlike Saul, David is a man after God’s own heart.

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 15 MIN

Uzzah and the Ark

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, and paper

Have the children draw a picture of Uzzah falling dead after touching 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 Like David

Invite a youth band or group of younger musicians to put together a set of lively worship songs.

Invite several people to share their conversion stories. Have those who share, talk about their experience of having the Holy Spirit come to live in them. They should describe the joy and assurance of salvation that he brought.

Explain to the children that, just as David brought the presence of God back home to his people, so Jesus, through his death on the cross and resurrection, has made a way for the presence of God to live in the hearts of every believer through the person of the Holy Spirit.

Sing songs interspersed with testimonies. Read Psalm 150:4–6 and encourage the children to dance like David did pointing out that God through his Word includes dance as a legitimate expression of worship. Even though some, like Michal, thought less of David for the way he presented himself, David's joy could not be contained.