

THE ARK OF GOD IS HOLY

God is holy.

THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 6:1-11

MONDAY

**God
demonstrated
His holiness**

God demonstrated His holiness – The ark was designed by God. It was to be carried with two poles which slid through rings attached to the sides of the ark (1 Chronicles 15:12-15). The poles were never supposed to leave the ark, but perhaps in its travels they had been removed. David did not take time to ask about how the ark of God should be transported and had it carried on a cart. His celebration was interrupted when the oxen stumbled and Uzzah put his hand on the ark of God to keep it from slipping. God struck Uzzah down at once.

God's word about how the ark should be handled was important because God's presence rested upon the ark. The ark was never to be treated casually. God's directions were disregarded. When a sinful man touched the ark, he died. David and all of Israel were rejoicing before the Lord. But they had forgotten about His frightening holiness. That day, David and Israel grew in the fear of God. They left the ark at Obed-Edom's house until they could understand their mistake.

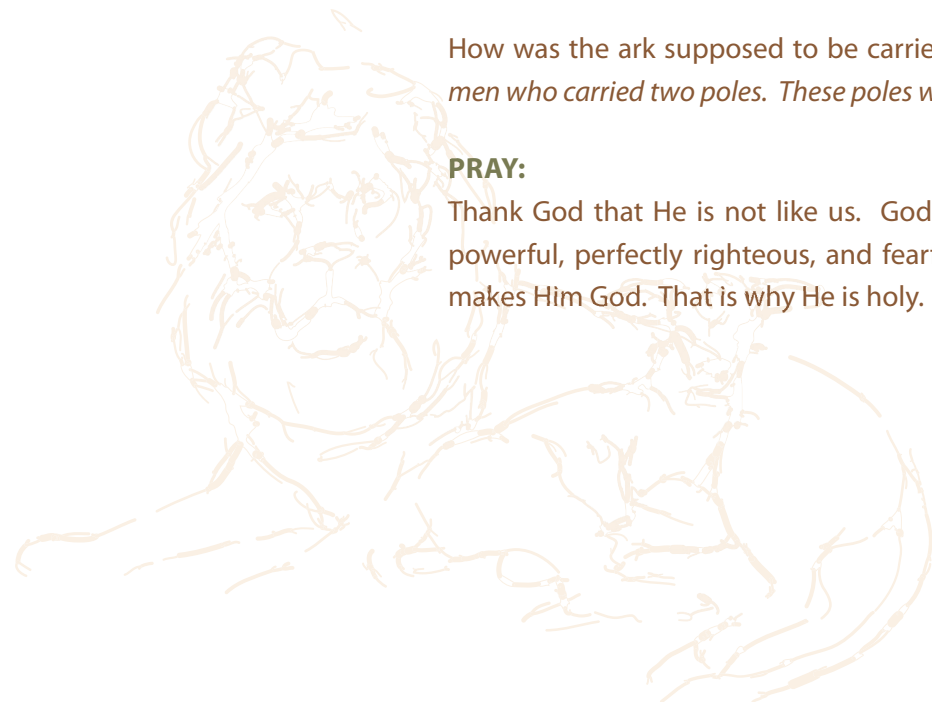
TALK ABOUT IT:

Read Numbers 4:15. Why did Uzzah die? (*Uzzah disobeyed God. He touched the ark which was set apart for the service of the temple and declared to be holy. The ark was the place where God showed his holy presence. The Lord did not want Israel to take His holiness or his presence lightly.*)

How was the ark supposed to be carried? (*The ark was meant to be carried by four men who carried two poles. These poles went through rings attached to the ark.*)

PRAY:

Thank God that He is not like us. God is infinitely more pure than we are, more powerful, perfectly righteous, and fearfully awesome in every way. That is what makes Him God. That is why He is holy.





THE STORY: 2 SAMUEL 6:12-15

TUESDAY

David returned for the ark

David returned for the ark – Later David returned with consecrated Levites to carry the ark in the prescribed fashion with poles on their shoulders (1 Chronicles 15:12-15). David only allowed the ark to go six steps before he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. David, now aware that God’s holiness cannot be treated casually, continued very carefully. He showed that he understood the need for shed blood to pay for sin. He showed great honor and respect for God’s holy presence by obeying what the law commanded.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did David do differently to carry the ark the second time? *(David followed God’s instructions for transporting the ark.)*

What did David do six steps into His journey? *(David offered up a sacrifice.)*

How does this remind you of Jesus? *(Jesus was the final sacrifice for sin.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus that covers our sins and makes a way for us to stand in the fearful and holy presence of God.



THE STORY: EXODUS 30:6-10

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

David celebrated the return of the ark because it represented a return of the presence of the Lord. In fact, the cover of the ark is called the atonement cover. This feature of the ark’s design pointed forward to Jesus. Now that Jesus has come, He has made the final atonement, or covering, for the sins of men. Now there is a new dwelling place for God – in the hearts of men and in the gathered church. In a sense, every Christian and every true church is a living ark. The presence of God is in us and with us!

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does the word atonement mean? *(It literally means a “covering,” but, more broadly, it speaks of satisfaction for sin so that forgiveness can be given. Jesus’ death and shed blood satisfied God’s wrath so that our sins could be forgiven. That is why we call Jesus’ death an atoning sacrifice.)*

How are our hearts like the ark? *(God’s presence dwelt in the cloud above the atonement cover (Leviticus 16:2). Now God’s presence dwells by His Holy Spirit in our hearts. What an amazing truth! God dwells in the hearts of men!)*

PRAY:

Thank God for pouring out His Spirit into our hearts.



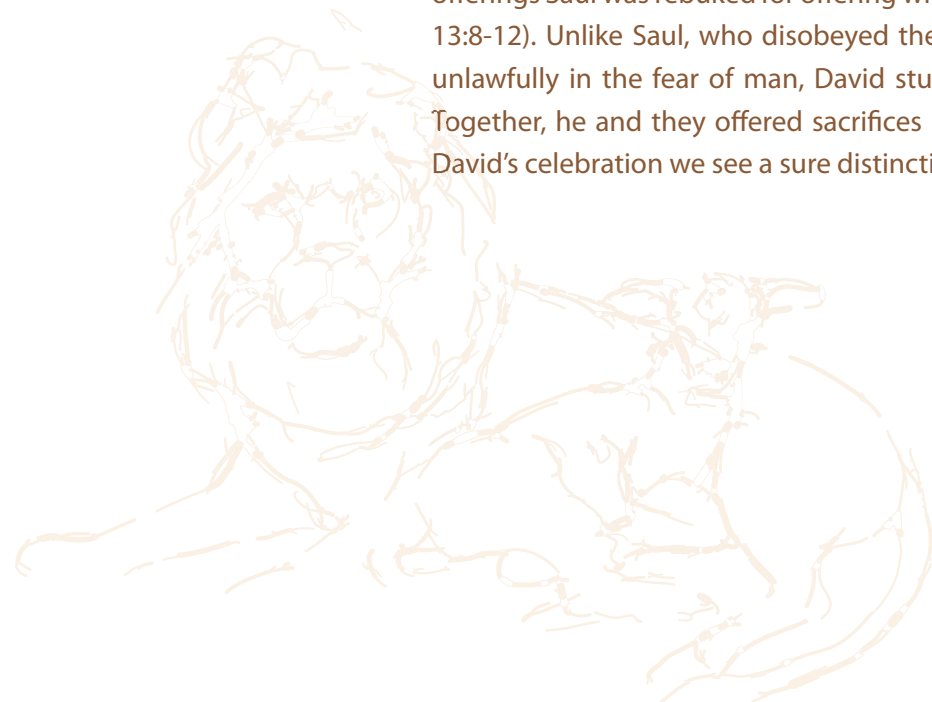
THE STORY: 1 SAMUEL 17:40-58

THURSDAY

Michal confronted David about his dancing

Michal confronted David about his dancing – As the ark and its happy parade entered Jerusalem, David was leaping and dancing while wearing a linen ephod. The ephod was the traditional dress of a priest. Michal, Saul’s daughter, was David’s wife. But she was embarrassed and bitter at her husband for his uninhibited display of joy (2 Samuel 6:16). Michal rebuked David when she should have been celebrating with him. At the end of the chapter we see God’s judgment on her as we read that she was never able to have children.

David offered peace offerings and burnt offerings. These were the very same types of offerings Saul was rebuked for offering when Samuel was traveling to him (1 Samuel 13:8-12). Unlike Saul, who disobeyed the command of God and offered sacrifices unlawfully in the fear of man, David studied the law and involved many Levites. Together, he and they offered sacrifices in the fear of God (1Chronicles 16:1). In David’s celebration we see a sure distinction between him and Saul.



TALK ABOUT IT:

What can we learn about worship from David's example? *(It is good to celebrate and rejoice in the Lord with dancing as part of our worship. God loves us to be happy and excited about Him.)*

Does God want us to worship Him with dancing today? *(Yes! God is just as wonderful today as he was back in David's time. If David jumped and danced before the Lord at the arrival of the ark to Jerusalem, how much more should we get excited about the arrival of our salvation and the presence of our God?)*

PRAY:

Ask God to touch your heart and place His Spirit within you. Ask him to so fill you that you want to rejoice like David did.



THE STORY: DANIEL 7:9-10

FRIDAY

Daniel is describing Jesus upon His throne. Jesus is the Ancient of Days. Revelation 1:12-14 describes the Son of Man (Jesus) in exactly the same way as the description in Daniel 7.

On the road to Emmaus.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Compare Revelation 1:12-14 with Daniel 7:9-10. Who is Daniel talking about? *(Daniel is talking about Jesus returning to judge the earth.)*

If we didn't have Revelation to tell us whom Daniel is talking about, what clues would tell us that it is Jesus? *(He has a throne so He must be a king. A great multitude serves Him. He is bright white (pure) with fire coming from His throne. He sits in judgment.)*

PRAY:

Thank Jesus that He came to earth and died for our sin so that all those who trust in Him can approach His throne without fear of judgment.

