

THE ARK OF GOD IS HOLY

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: II SAMUEL 6:1-8



The STORY

Read the following Bible story about the Ark of God based on 2 Samuel 6:1-8.

David chose a large army to bring the Ark of God back to Jerusalem. The ark of God was set on a new cart pulled by oxen. Two men, Uzzah and Ahio, were guiding the cart along the way. David and all of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord with all kinds of instruments. They used harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.

As they reached the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled. Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God. God's anger burned against Uzzah. God struck Uzzah down that day for disobeying his command not to touch the holy things of God. (Numbers 4:15)

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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. 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 to 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.)

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CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Uzzah reaching out to the ark on the cart. Engage the children by asking:

- 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.)

SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children 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 bringing the ark happy? (The Lord had given the Israelites strength over their enemies and now the presence of the Lord was returning to Jerusalem to dwell. They were excited about God!)
- Do you recognize any of the instruments they used to worship God? Do we use any of those same instruments when we worship on Sunday? (Accept any answer.)



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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.

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. This pointed forward to Jesus. 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

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

