

The Ark Is Brought To Jerusalem

2 Samuel 6:1-19

MEMORY VERSE

2 SAMUEL 6:2

“And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Small slips of paper (2”x 4”).

Enough straws for each child in your class, four bowls and masking tape.

Crayons or markers and drawing paper.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Memory Hop

Prior to class, write out today’s theme on small sheets of paper (one word per sheet). Do two sets. For the younger classes, try shortening the theme to “Serve God the right way.” Discuss the theme.

Choose two players and have them come to the front of the class. Next tell the two children to turn around and close their eyes (no peeking!). While they have their eyes closed, distribute both sets of the words of the theme in various areas of the classroom. Then have them open their eyes and find the words of the theme in order. See which child can put together the theme first. This will test their memory and how well they were listening for the theme. Call on other children. **God wants us to be obedient to His Word.**

LESSON TIME!

Have you heard of the Ark of the Covenant? The ark of God was considered very special to Israel and valued as a sacred treasure. It was a symbol of God's presence and power. King David desired to re-establish its place of importance in the hearts of the people of Israel and make it the center of worship in Jerusalem. In fact, it was on David's heart to eventually build a temple to house the ark.

David had some things to learn about handling the ark—the symbol of God's presence and power. God required respect and obedience. A heavy price was paid because of neglect and compromise in following God's instructions. **God wants us to be obedient to His Word.**

2 SAMUEL 6:1-2

Again David gathered all the choice men of Israel, thirty thousand.

And David arose and went with all the people who were with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called by the Name, the LORD of Hosts, who dwells between the cherubim.

Have you ever experienced the excitement of preparing to do something or go somewhere that just made you feel like your heart was getting ready to burst with joy? Well King David desired to honor God and express his love. He was filled with excitement as he prepared to bring the nation's treasure, the ark of God, to its new home. He gathered 30,000 chosen men of Israel for the celebration.

For 100 long years, the Ark of God had been separated from the tabernacle and other places of worship. When the ark was returned to Israel after a brief Philistine captivity (1 Samuel 4-6), it was kept in Abinadab's home for 20 years. King David saw how Abinadab was blessed, and he wanted to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem so that the entire nation could be blessed.

Most people had forgotten about the ark; it just became a mere symbol of things that happened a long time ago in Moses' day. As the ark represented the presence of God, it showed how the people had forgotten God. His presence was no longer important to them. They were too busy living their own lives to be concerned with the ark.

However, David wanted to change all of that. He hoped to bring the ark to Jerusalem, the new capital of Israel, so that God and His presence could become the most important thing in Israel again.

2 SAMUEL 6:3-8

So they set the ark of God on a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill; and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart.

And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill, accompanying the ark of God; and Ahio went before the ark.

Then David and all the house of Israel played music before the LORD on all kinds of instruments of fir wood, on harps, on stringed instruments, on tambourines, on sistrums, and on cymbals.

And when they came to Nachon's threshing floor, Uzzah put out his hand to the ark of God and took hold of it, for the oxen stumbled.

Then the anger of the LORD was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him there for his error; and he died there by the ark of God.

And David became angry because of the Lord's outbreak against Uzzah; and he called the name of the place Perez Uzzah to this day.

For 20 years, Abinadab and his family had the privilege of caring for the ark, but now it would be taken to its new home in Jerusalem. King David would spare no expense. With great excitement and anticipation, the ark of God would be paraded on a new cart with a great gathering of musicians playing music of praise unto God. This was a wonderful event for the nation of Israel, a time of worship, and great expectation for God's blessings upon them.

Along the way, they passed over a rough place on the road where stones were used as a threshing floor. The oxen stumbled, upsetting the ark. Uzzah, one of Abinadab's sons who was attending the ark, laid hold of it to prevent its fall, an act of irreverence that cost him his life. He was only trying to protect the ark, yet he lost his life in doing so. Why would God do such a thing?

Uzzah loved God, yet not knowing God's requirements in the law for handling the ark, he sinned. According to Numbers 4:5-15, the ark was to be moved only by the Levites, who were to carry it using the carrying poles. They were never to touch the ark itself. To touch it was a capital offense under Jewish law. God's action was directed against both King David and Uzzah for their disobedience. King David had placed the ark on a cart, following the Philistines example rather than God's commands. God had to remind the nation dramatically that enthusiasm must be joined with obedience to His Word. **God wants us to be obedient to His Word.**

How important that we not neglect the Word of God. God's Word was very specific in the handling of the ark. King David and the Levites should have known what the law said about the handling of the ark. If something is important enough that God gives specific instructions to us in His Word, it must be important enough to us to listen carefully and follow those instructions.

Straw Relay

God has a plan for us! But, sometimes we try to find new ways to do things. Use this game to reinforce today's theme. You will need paper, four bowls, and masking tape.

On 2"x 4" pieces of paper, write out today's theme (one word per slip, you may want to save the pieces of paper used in the Attention Grabber game above). You will need two sets of slips of paper with the theme written on them (one word per slip). Form two teams. Each team will need a set of slips of paper with the theme, two bowls, and enough straws for each child to have one. Use the masking tape to mark a starting and finishing line for each team. On the starting line put the bowl filled with the paper slips and place the empty bowl on the finishing line.

When you say "go," have one person from each team pick up a slip of paper and using their straw, suck in so that the paper is attached to the straw. Then while doing this, they need to go across to the finishing line and drop the paper into the bowl there. Let everyone have a turn.

When everyone is done, gather them together and discuss the following. Was this game hard or easy? Would it have been easier just to race against each other without using the straws? How did using the straws make it more difficult? How does adding things on to our service to the Lord make it more difficult?

2 SAMUEL 6:9-11

David was afraid of the LORD that day; and he said, "How can the ark of the LORD come to me?"

So David would not move the ark of the LORD with him into the City of David; but David took it aside into the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite.

The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite three months. And the LORD blessed Obed-Edom and all his household.

David's plans for a joyous return of the ark had been spoiled. The jubilant celebration turned into a disaster. David would soon realize that the fault was his own for transporting the ark carelessly. David learned his lesson and would not move the ark again until the Lord gave him instruction. Obed-Edom would be the recipient of the ark and God's blessings as he cared for it for three months.

If the nation of Israel wanted God's blessings, they would need to respond in obedience to God's Word. God will not bless disobedience to His Word. If we love the Lord, we will respect Him and His ways. **God wants us to be obedient to His Word.**

The three months would give David the time to consider what went wrong in transporting the ark. The fact that God blessed the home of Obed-Edom was a sign to David that God's presence was still with the ark and that he should try once again to move the ark to Jerusalem.

2 SAMUEL 6:12-15

Now it was told King David, saying, "The LORD has blessed the house of Obed-Edom and all that belongs to him, because of the ark of God." So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

Once King David discovered that the Lord was blessing Obed-Edom, he wasted no time in making preparations to move the ark. This time the ark would be moved the way God instructed in His Word. This time, David sacrificed an ox and fat lamb every six paces. David worshipped the Lord, overwhelmed by God's mercy and grace, as he paraded the ark in a great celebration.

2 SAMUEL 6:16-19

Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

Wow! What a parade. King David and the nation of Israel spared nothing to express their worship and praise to the great God who loved and cared for them. Now, instructed from God's Word, the people experienced the blessings of being in harmony with their loving Creator.

Unfortunately, Michal, David's wife, did not share the feelings of those who were rejoicing. Instead of having a heart that experienced God's grace, mercy, and peace, she had a heart of bitterness, despising it all. She could not share David's joyful worship of God, so she hated it. As a result, she never bore David any children (6:23).

David on the other hand, was willing to look foolish in the eyes of some in order to worship God fully and honestly. We should never be afraid to express our feelings toward God, even when others are present who may consider us foolish. There is nothing greater we can do than to live our lives for God's pleasure.

In conclusion, God gave the children of Israel His law, all the instructions necessary to walk in His ways; yet, they neglected the law of God and reaped serious consequences. Like the children of Israel, we have been given the law of the Lord, the Word of God. Let us not neglect to read God's Word and live in obedience to it. As we follow the Lord wholly, we will reap His rich blessings. **God wants us to be obedient to His Word.**

The Right Way and the Wrong Way

For this craft you will need crayons or markers and drawing paper.

Give each child a piece of drawing paper. Have the children draw a line down the center of the paper. On one side have them draw a picture of the ark being transported incorrectly. On the other side, have them draw a picture of the ark being transported the right way.

Ask the children why it was so important to move the ark the right way. Use this craft to reinforce today's lesson. Remind the children how that sometimes our hearts may be in the right place when we do something, but it is very important that we do it the right way, according to God's Word.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to serve the Lord in the right way—being obedient to His Word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.