David Celebrates

2 Samuel 6

November
Week 4

4

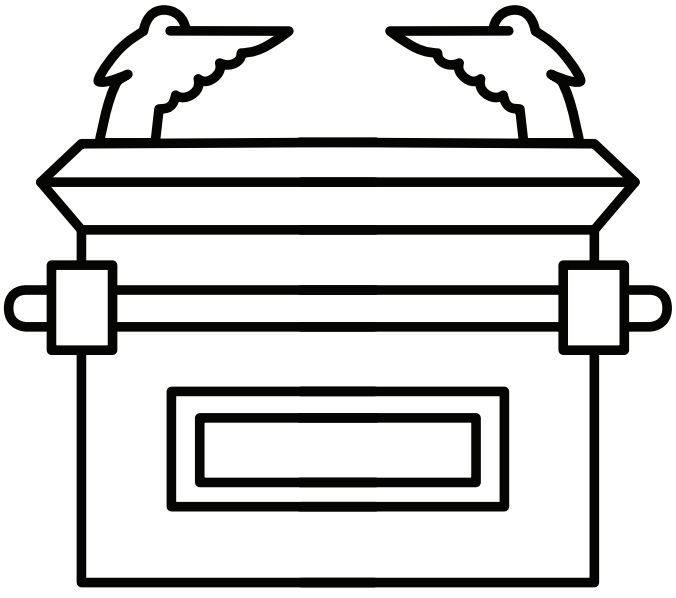
Teacher Background

What Happens: King David leads a parade to bring the Ark of the Lord back to Israel. It's a big celebration, with music and dancing. David is wearing clothes that make him not look like a king, and his wife isn't impressed by his dancing. But David knows that God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.

Why It Matters: Kids celebrate a lot of things! They celebrate sports, celebrities, special occasions, and more. Help kids tap into their celebrating spirit as they consider how to connect with God.

Think About: What's the last thing you celebrated? What do you want to celebrate about God?

Pray that your kids will unashamedly celebrate God.



Point

God is praiseworthy.

Key Verse

"So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows."

Matthew 10:31

QUICK TIP

This lesson is full of celebration! Want to step it up a notch? Decorate your room like you're having a party. Hang balloons, banners, and streamers; have kids wear party hats; play fun music and have party snacks for kids as they enter. While this isn't essential to the lesson, it will help set a fun tone of celebration.

Date:_____

This Lesson **at a Glance**



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Decorate an ark, remove their distractions, and celebrate God.	How to shed our distractions and just praise God.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Make pompom launchers to celebrate God.	How fun it is to celebrate with praise.
PLAY A GAME Praise God when music plays and freeze when it stops.	How to praise God without worrying what others think.
PRAY TOGETHER Discover what the word *hallelujah* means, as they praise and clap for God.	Reasons to praise God.

EASY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- large box (at least 1x1x1 foot)
- markers
- crepe paper streamers
- balloons
- 3-ounce bathroom cups (1 per child)
- colorful pompoms
- scissors
- stickers
- upbeat music
- various party noisemakers such as kazoos, blow horns, whistles, flutes, hand clappers, ratchet twirlers, bells, and rattles (1 per child)

CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids thumb wrestle with a friend.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids sing "Happy Birthday" with their lips tucked over their teeth.

ASK: Tell one thing that happened this week that made you laugh. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.

SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we're going to learn that ➡ God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. One way we celebrate is with parties!

ASK: Tell about a party you went to. What did you like about it? Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: Parties are a fun way to celebrate. Sometimes church doesn't seem like much of a party...but it is! We're here to celebrate God because ➡ God is praiseworthy. Let's see how David celebrated God in the Bible.

EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES
- Bible
- large box (at least 1x1x1 foot)
- markers
- crepe paper streamers



CELEBRATE SMALL

When you're exploring things in the Bible like the Ark, it's great to have a mixed-age group! Older kids may be embarrassed to ask if they don't know about the Bible topic, but with the younger kids there, you'll get to explain!

DECORATE BOXES

SAY: Our Bible story today involves a special treasure box called the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a box that held the Ten Commandments, a staff, and some food called *manna*. Those were special reminders of what God had done for his special people, called the Israelites.

The Ark was *so* special that God had special rules for it. No one could even touch it! It was a reminder that God is so holy and praiseworthy and we need to take him seriously. *Praiseworthy* means he deserves a lot of compliments!

Since the Ark was a reminder that ➡ God is praiseworthy, let's decorate a box that can remind *us* who God is.

Have kids each draw on the box one thing to praise God. For example, a heart to show his love or a smiley face to show he brings joy.

SAY: In today's Bible story, the Israelites had to move the Ark. Some other people had it, but the Israelites went to get it back. After some problems along the way, David realized that ➡ God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. Let's see what David did!

WEAR AND REMOVE STREAMERS

SAY: In a little bit, we'll see how David kept his attention on God. Sometimes we get distracted and think about ourselves instead.

For each of the following categories, have kids each tear a long streamer and drape it over their shoulders.

SAY: We might get distracted by our worries. Pause for kids to think about a worry.

Or by something we're excited about. Pause.

Or by something we need to get done. Pause.

Or by a feeling, like being hungry or tired. Pause.

Or by a person we think about a lot or miss. Pause.

Right now we're wearing all these things that could be distracting our hearts from praising God. Let's see what happened when David praised God.

Read 2 Samuel 6:13-15.



SAY: Wow! What a celebration! David was ready to worship God. As a sign that he put his attention on God, he didn't wear clothes that showed off that he was a king.

Instead, he wore clothes that people wore when their job was to be close to God. His change of clothes showed that he was ready to praise God because ➡ God is praiseworthy.

Just as David removed his king's robes—the things that might keep him thinking about himself—we can remove our distractions. Let's do that now!

Lead kids in removing their streamers.

SAY: We've removed our distractions. ➡ God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. Let's focus on that now!

CELEBRATE

Have kids pick up and wave their streamers as they dance like David did.

ASK: How did you feel when you were praising God now?

ASK: What was your goal or focus while you praised God?

SAY: David wasn't focused on himself when he praised God. He didn't care what he looked like because it wasn't about him—it was about God. But his wife, Michal, *did* care. Here's what she had to say when she saw him.



Read 2 Samuel 6:16, 20.

SAY: David didn't care what Michal thought. He wasn't trying to put on a show, so here's how he responded.

Read 2 Samuel 6:21-22.

SAY: Sometimes when people worship, they dance, raise their hands, or close their eyes. If you're thinking mostly about what other people think of you, doing those things might feel silly. But when we remember that ➡ God is praiseworthy, we celebrate him no matter what other people think about us! Let's make something that will help us celebrate God.

HANDS-ON DISCOVERY (10 MINUTES)

SUPPLIES

- balloons
- 3-ounce bathroom cups (1 per child)
- colorful pompoms
- scissors
- stickers
- upbeat music
- music player

EASY PREP

- Cut out the bottom of each cup.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.







CELEBRATE SMALL

Here's a big advantage of having a few kids—less craft prep!

MAKE PRAISE LAUNCHERS

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a prepared cup and a balloon. Set out the pompoms, scissors, and stickers to share.

- Cut the "top" (the rounded part) off of a balloon. (Have older kids help younger kids.)
- Stretch the cut part of the balloon over the bottom of the cup.
- Tie a knot in the base of the balloon. (Older kids can help younger kids.)
- Decorate the cups with stickers.
- Put a few pompoms in the cups.

LAUNCH AND CELEBRATE

SAY: ➡ God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. Let's celebrate God right now!

- Play upbeat praise music.
- As music plays, kids will each shout a reason God is praiseworthy and launch their pompoms by pulling the balloon knot and releasing.
- Have kids collect the pompoms and put them back in their cups, launching as the music continues to play.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: Tell about a celebration you went to. What kinds of fun things happened there? Share your own story first.

ASK: Why do we celebrate by tossing pretty things in the air? Why do they make a fun way to celebrate God?

SAY: ➡ God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. We can celebrate God with our praise launchers as we shout out his praises.

Have kids set their praise launchers aside to take home. Encourage kids to use them with their friends and families to celebrate and praise God.



PLAY A GAME (10 MINUTES)

PLAY A PRAISE PARTY GAME

SAY: Today's Bible story showed us how David and his people praised God as they moved the Ark. They sang and danced, made joyful shouts, and did it all even if others might think they were being foolish.

Let's celebrate God like David did, but we'll play a fun freeze game as part of our celebration.

- Give a noisemaker to each child.
- When the music plays, everyone will add to the music with his or her noisemaker. Kids can also sing if they know the words to the song.
- Encourage everyone to move all around the room, leaping and dancing with the music.
- Kids can also shout things such as "Thank you, God!" "We love you, God!" and "You are awesome, God!" as they celebrate.
- You'll turn the music off at random times, and when the music stops, everyone must freeze in place, trying not to move at all even if that means holding a difficult position.
- When kids are frozen, move around the room and inspect how still everyone is. Be silly about it to try to get kids to giggle and move.
- When you start the music again, everyone will start moving and celebrating again.

SUPPLIES

- various party noisemakers such as kazoos, blow horns, whistles, flutes, hand clappers, ratchet twirlers, bells, and rattles (1 per child)
- upbeat praise music
- music player



CELEBRATE SMALL

In age-graded classrooms, preteens may be more likely to goof off and not freeze. But in your mixed-age group, preteens are less likely to act out—they're not trying to impress their peers!

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: What did you like or not like about our praise party for God?

ASK: Why would you or wouldn't you praise God like that somewhere out in public, like at the grocery store or walking down your street?

SAY: We might feel a little awkward when we're doing something that draws a lot of attention, but David and his people weren't worried about what others were thinking when they were praising God. Their singing, dancing, and praise was for *God*, not other people. ➥ God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.

You know, our praise party reminded me of something else in the Bible. Many years after David lived, God's Son, Jesus, traveled down a road not too far from where David would have praised God. And people praised Jesus! Jesus said even the rocks would praise him if people didn't. That's because Jesus is God, and ➥ God is praiseworthy.



PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SAY: When we praise someone, we say nice things about that person.

ASK: What's something nice someone has said about you? Give a short example from your own life, then welcome a few responses. If kids struggle to think of examples, shower the group with a few compliments right now.

SAY: Like your friends praised you, we can praise God. You see, prayer isn't just about asking God for things. We're also praying when we're praising!

The word *hallelujah* means "God be praised." We sing that word in praise songs, and we read it a lot in the Bible. Today, as we pray, let's shout "Hallelujah!" and say nice things about God.

Here's what we'll do: We'll make popcorn praise! Everyone will crouch down low, like this. Crouch down, with feet on the floor, ready to jump up. Allow time for kids to crouch down, too.

Now we'll praise our way around the room. When it's your turn, pop up and praise God. You could shout things like "God is great!" "God helped me feel better!" or "God made elephants!" Then crouch down again. If you aren't sure what to say, just shout, "Hallelujah!"

After someone praises God, we'll all clap and shout, "Hallelujah!" Then it'll be the next person's turn. We'll "pop" and praise all around the room.

Shout the first praise, and have kids respond with "Hallelujah!" Then motion for the next person to go. Help direct kids when it's their turn. If time allows, "popcorn praise" around the room again!

SAY: We praise God for all these things because ➥ God is praiseworthy! Hallelujah!