

General Church Education



The Ark Is Returned

2 Samuel 6:1-19; 7:1-13

Lesson 25

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 5: The Lord Is Our King

For ages 10-11

The Ark Is Returned

2 Samuel 6:1-19; 7:1-13

Teacher Background

David decided it was time to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. The Ark was at Abinadab's house. It was put on a new cart driven by Uzzah and Ahio. David and the people danced and played music before it. When the oxen stumbled Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the Ark and died. Therefore David left the Ark at Obed-Edom's house for three months. Obed-Edom's house was blessed, so David decided to move the Ark to Jerusalem. He wanted to build a house for the Lord, but the prophet Nathan told him that he would not be the one to do that.

Throughout the Word, various stories show the power and importance of the Ark. Its power for good or bad depended on the state of the people who had it. David desired to have the Ark brought to Jerusalem because he believed it would bring his people strength and goodness. Uzzah's death made David angry and afraid. But on seeing Obed-Edom's house blessed, he had the courage to bring the Ark to Jerusalem.

Focus Points

- David set out to bring the Ark to Jerusalem on a cart driven by Uzzah and Ahio.
- The people sang and danced, but as the oxen stumbled Uzzah touched the Ark and died.
- David left the Ark at the house of Obed-Edom, and on hearing they were blessed he brought it to Jerusalem.

Readings from the Writings

Because the Law was the very holiness of the church, the Ark was brought by David into Zion.... On account of the Lord's presence in that Law and around it, miracles were wrought ... by the Lord's presence in the Ten Commandments. See *Doctrine of Life* 55.2

“Since times of play and dancing were signs of feelings of joy and gladness inwardly present and springing from love ... when the ark was being brought up from the house of Obed-Edom to the city of David ... danced before Jehovah.” *Arcana Coelestia* 1041.3

Uzzah took hold of the ark of God and therefore died. The “Ark” represented the Lord, thus all that is holy and celestial. Uzzah's putting forth his hand to the Ark represented a person's own power, or what is his own. See *Arcana Coelestia* 878

Mount Zion signifies heaven and the church because it was the city which David built and which he dwelt. For this reason the ark of Jehovah, in which the Law was deposited, was carried into that city by David; for that Law...also signified the Divine truth proceeding from the Lord. See *Apocalypse Explained* 850.2

Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following choices:

Recitation

Learn the Lord's Word by heart.

“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.” (Psalm 30:11)

Projects and Activities (see back of lesson for answers)

The Ark Is Returned to Israel Multiple Choice
Read the sentences and circle the best endings.

The Center of Our Lives

Make a spiral that spins towards the center, imitating the way David brought the Ark to Jerusalem in the center of the land, and how we can take the Lord's Word to the center of our lives.

Song: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Listen online and sing along at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-guide-me-o-thou-great-jehovah-2/>

Additional Project and Activity Choices

Game: Bring the Ark Back to the Tabernacle

Follow directions for creating and playing a group board game to bring the Ark from the house of Obed-Edom to the Tabernacle. Online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/sso-topics-44-david-brings-back-ark.pdf>

Discussion: When Someone Says 'No'

David wanted to build a house for the Lord, but the Lord said 'no'. How did David react? Parents and teachers sometimes say 'no' to things that we want to do. How do we react when this happens? Pay attention to ways you react to being told 'no' this week! What might a parent or teacher have in mind for you by saying this?

Activity: Praise the Lord with Music

David used many instruments to praise the Lord. Have fun playing a variety of instruments in praise of the Lord. Online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-praise-the-lord-with-music-exodus15.pdf>

The Ark is Returned

2 Samuel 6:1-19; 7:1-13

Vocabulary

cedar wood—a fragrant wood not easily damaged by insect insects and weather

sistrum—a metal percussion instrument that rattles like a tambourine

tabernacle—tent

The Ark of the Covenant was the most precious thing in the tabernacle. It was made of acacia wood covered with pure gold. It had two golden cherubim on top. The cherubim protected the Ten Commandments, which were kept inside the Ark.

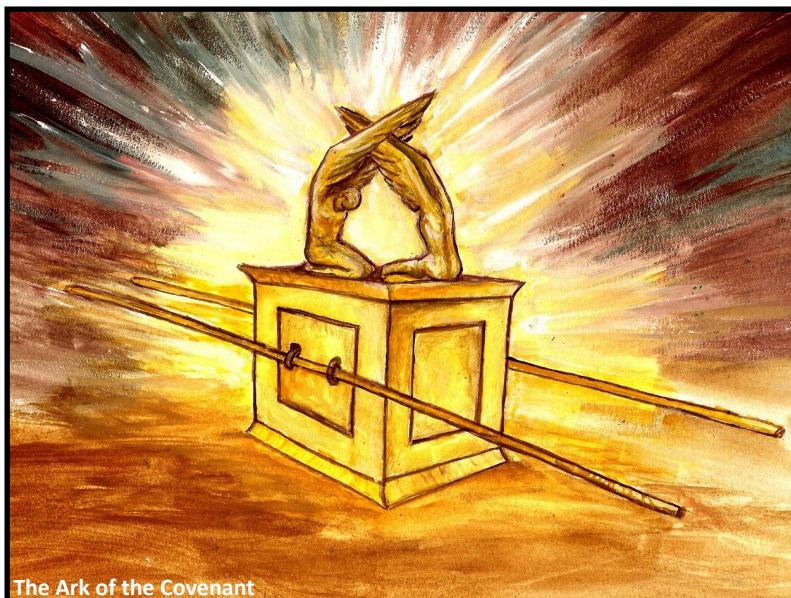
The Ark was kept in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle. It was so holy that the High Priest was the only person who could go in there, and he only went in there once a year. Nobody was allowed to touch the Ark. As the children of Israel traveled from Mount Sinai to the land of Canaan the priests used two long poles to move it from place to place. When the people settled in the land they set up the tabernacle in Shiloh.

The Ark Was no Longer in Shiloh

One day, the Israelite army foolishly took the Ark out of the Holy of Holies and brought it to a battle against the Philistines. They thought it would help them win even though the Lord had not told them to do this. When the Philistines defeated the Israelites, they stole the Ark.

While the Ark was with the Philistines there were horrible plagues, and so they decided to get rid of it. They put it on a new cart pulled by two milk cows,

and sent it back to Israel. When the Ark arrived at Beth Shemesh some of the men broke the Lord's commandment by opening the Ark and looking inside it. Many people died that day. So they sent the Ark to the house of Abinadab in Kirjath Jearim. It stayed there for many years and was almost forgotten. When David became king, the Ark was still at Abinadab's house.



The Ark of the Covenant

David Decides to Bring Back the Ark

After David became king and made Jerusalem his capital he decided that it was time to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. It was meant to be the center of Israel's worship.

David gathered thirty thousand of the best men and set out to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. The people went to Abinadab's house in Kirjath Jearim. They put the Ark on a new cart. Abinadab's sons, Uzzah and Ahio, drove the cart.

What a joyful time! The King of Israel and thirty thousand people went in front of the Ark, playing music to the Lord.

“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.” (2 Samuel 6:5)

On the way to Jerusalem, they came to a threshing floor. It was a place where farmers heaped grain to thresh or beat the grain out of the husks. The oxen stumbled, and Uzzah put out his hand to hold the Ark steady.



But as soon as he touched the Ark he died.

This might seem unfair but the Ark and the Ten Commandments were the most holy thing in the life of the Israelites. The Ark had great power. It had parted the waters of the Jordan River so the children of Israel could pass over. It was carried around the city of Jericho and the walls of the city fell down. The Lord could help the Israelites only if they obeyed Him. All of Israel knew that no one was to touch the Ark. They could not be allowed to forget its holiness and power, as Uzzah did when he touched it.

David Leaves the Ark Behind

David was angry about what happened to Uzzah and became too terrified to take the Ark to Jerusalem. Instead, he took it to

the house of Obed-Edom. It stayed there for three months. While it was there the Lord blessed Obed-Edom and his household.

David Returns for the Ark

David began to hear stories about how Obed-Edom and his family were blessed because the Ark was in their home. David did not need to be afraid. Having the Ark was a blessing! He would go and get the Ark and bring it to Jerusalem.

“So David and all the house of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.” (2 Samuel 6:15)

David offered burnt offerings to the Lord, and blessed the people in the name of the Lord. He gave every person a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and a cake of raisins.

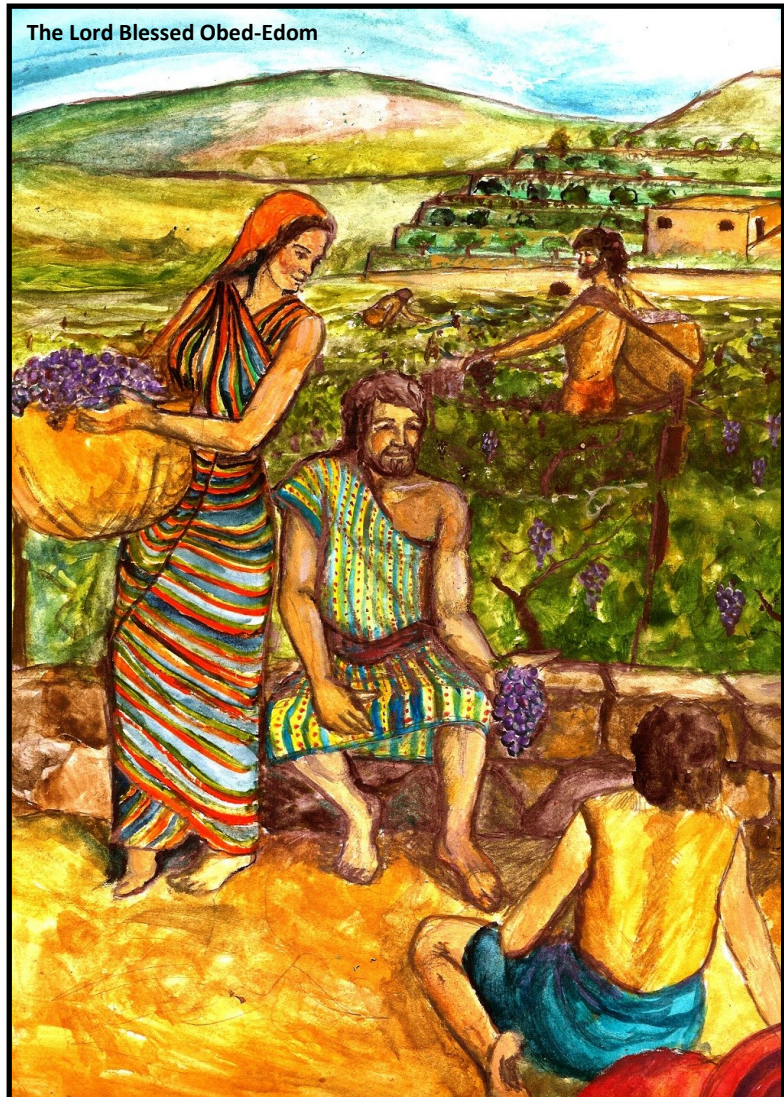
David Wants to Build a Temple

In Jerusalem, David put the Ark in a tent he had prepared. Since David was living in a splendid cedar palace he began to wonder if the Ark of God should be in a tent.

“See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God dwells inside tent curtains.” (2 Samuel 7:2)

David decided to build a better house for the Ark. He asked the prophet Nathan what he should do. Nathan thought it was a good plan and encouraged him to do it. But Nathan had not advised him correctly. That night, the Lord gave Nathan a message for David. The Lord did not need David to build Him a house. David needed to think of all that the Lord had done for him, and would do for him. The Lord would build a “house” for David.

The Lord meant that David’s family would grow and become strong. David’s son would rule after him, and his kingdom would be established forever. His son would build a temple for the Lord. David humbly praised God. Although he was probably disappointed, he understood that the Lord would not be closer with the people in a temple than in a tent because true worship can take place anywhere.



Activity Overview

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness.” (Psalm 30:11)

Projects and Activities (answers are at the back of this lesson)

Choose one or two.

The Ark Is Returned to Israel Multiple Choice

Read the sentences and circle the best endings.

The Center of Our Lives

Make a spiral that spins towards the center, imitating the way David brought the Ark to Jerusalem in the center of the land, and how we can take the Lord’s Word to the center of our lives.

Song: Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah

Listen and sing along at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-guide-me-o-thou-great-jehovah-2/>

The Ark is Returned to Israel Multiple Choice

2 Samuel 6

Circle the best answer.

1. David gathered thirty thousand choice men of Israel...
 - a. to bring up the ark of God.
 - b. to drive the Philistines out of the land.
 - c. to build a temple for the Lord.

2. They set the Ark on a new cart and...
 - a. David drove the oxen.
 - b. brought it out of the house of Abinadab.
 - c. circled the city five times.

3. David became angry because...
 - a. the oxen stumbled.
 - b. Uzzah touched the Ark.
 - c. the Lord struck Uzzah.

4. David decided not to bring the Ark into Jerusalem because...
 - a. he was angry with the Lord.
 - b. he was afraid of the Ark.
 - c. Obed-Edom begged to have it stay in his house.

5. While the Ark was with Obed-Edom...
 - a. his harvest was bountiful.
 - b. he had three months of trouble.
 - c. the Lord blessed his household.

6. David and the house of Israel brought up the ark with shouting and...
 - a. the sound of the trumpet.
 - b. the clanging of cymbals.
 - c. the beating of drums.

7. After blessing the people, David gave each one of them...
 - a. a new set of clothing.
 - b. bread, meat and raisin cakes.
 - c. an instrument to play.

8. David told Nathan, the prophet, that he planned to...
 - a. build a house for the Ark.
 - b. bring the ark into his palace.
 - c. set the ark inside tent curtains.

9. Nathan had a dream and the Lord told him...
 - a. that David's son would build a house for the Ark.
 - b. that David should build a house of cedar for the Ark.
 - c. that Nathan should build a house for the Ark.

The Center of Our Lives

2 Samuel 6

When David became king he wanted the Ark and the Ten Commandments inside it to be at the center of Israel. He worked hard for that to happen.

We no longer have the Ark, but we have the Lord's Word, which we can take to the center of our lives. Make a spiral that illustrates bringing the Word to the center of your life. Reverse the spin to take the Lord's Word out into everything you do!

Supplies needed

Whirligig Templates

a piece of stiff cardboard

scissors

sharp needle (large size)

length of string approx. 36" (45cm)

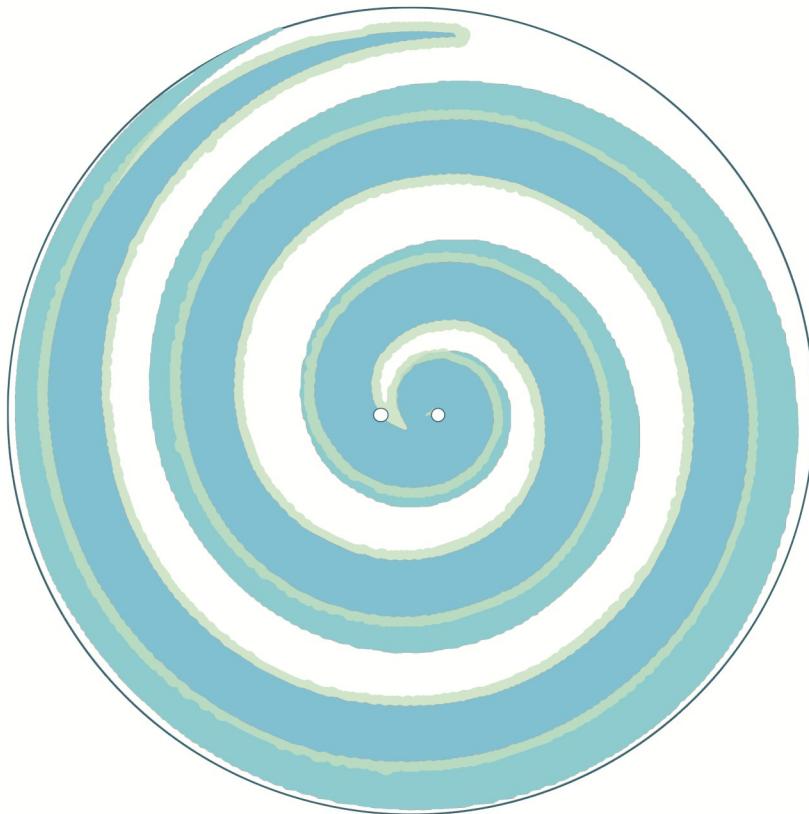
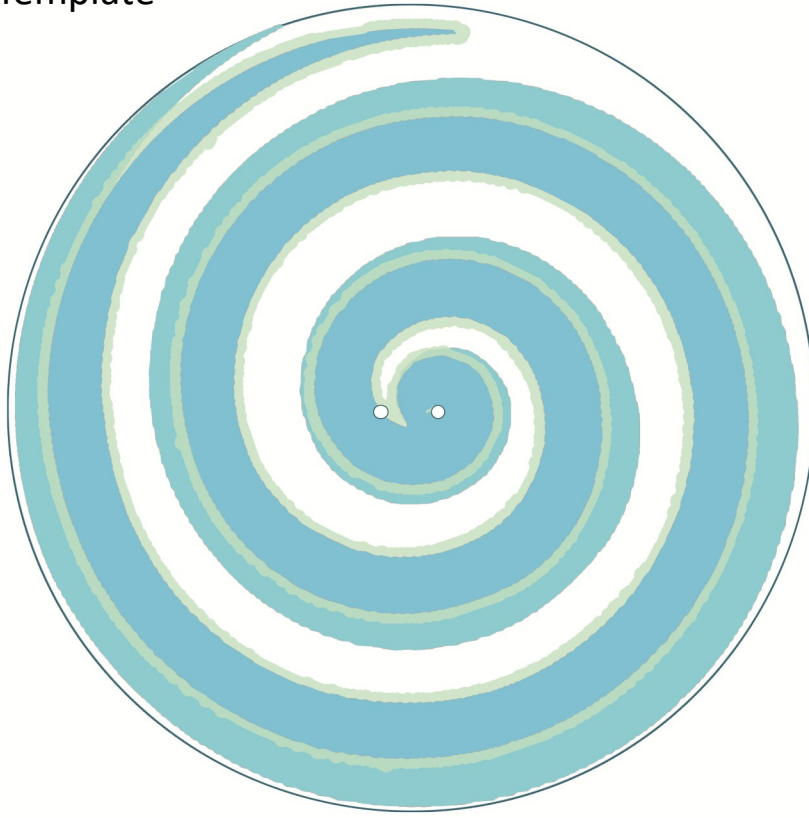
Directions

1. Choose a whirligig pattern.
2. Cut out the two spirals.
3. Trim the stiff cardboard to the size of the spiral.
4. Glue the spirals to the front and back of the cardboard, being careful to line them up.
5. Using a large sewing needle, poke through both center holes on the white dots.
6. Cut string and insert through the holes from the same side then tie the ends together tightly on other side to make a large loop of string.
7. Hold one end of the loop of string in each hand. Wind up the whirligig by flipping repeatedly turning the string at one end as if you were turning a skipping rope, and then suddenly pull it tight. Your card will revolve very rapidly.
8. Watch the spiral move towards the center and reflect on how you can bring the Lord's Word to the center of your life.

Whirligig Template



Whirligig Template



Answers

Lesson 25

The Ark Is Returned to Israel Multiple Choice

1. a, 2. b, 3. c, 4. b, 5. c, 6. b, 7. b, 8. a, 9. a.