

The Ark Returns to Jerusalem

2 Samuel 6:1-19

Teacher Preparation

- Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*
<https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-11-the-ark-brought-to-jerusalem.pdf>
- Read *1 Samuel 4:1-11; 5; 6:1-16* as review

Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

Read and Discuss

1. Ask the kids if anyone remembers the story of when the Ark was captured by the Philistines. Remind them of some of the key points if they don't remember:
 - The children of Israel took the Ark into battle.
 - The Philistines captured the Ark and put into one of their temples.
 - While it was there, the people nearby became ill.
 - Their statue god, Dagon, fell down several times, face-forward towards the Ark, as if he was worshipping it. The last time it fell, his face and head broke off.
 - The Philistines knew that bad things were happening because they had the Ark. They knew they couldn't keep it. So they put it on a cart with two oxen mothers who had calves nearby. The oxen walked straight to the land of Israel. It was kept at the home of Abinidab. In today's story, David wants to bring the Ark back to the Tabernacle in Jerusalem, where it belonged.
1. Read *2 Samuel 6: 1-19*, or the whole chapter.
2. What was the first mistake that they made bringing back the Ark? (putting it on a cart instead of the priests carrying it.)
3. They all knew that the Ark was the most holy item of worship, and **no one** was to touch it.
4. As the Ark was going along, a terrible thing happened. What was that? (the Ark wobbled, Uzzah put out his hand to steady it, and he was struck dead) This seems like a harsh punishment for what doesn't feel like a terrible sin, doesn't it? It is harsh, but it represents an important lesson. First of all, even King David was not showing the Ark its proper respect when he had it put onto a cart—that wasn't how it was supposed to be carried. And then Uzzah touched it, even though he knew he shouldn't. But we think, he was trying to keep it from falling! But this shows he didn't trust the Lord. The By him touching it, it is almost as if he were saying that he didn't **really** trust the Lord to take good care of the Ark, he better just "help". What sort of statement do we make when our actions demonstrate that we don't really think that the Lord "has got this one"? He thought that the rules that the Lord had set out might be not important in certain situations, and he also thought that he **needed** to help the Lord do something, as if the Lord couldn't do it himself. For these reasons he died.

Read and Discuss (continued)

5. What does this attitude look like in our lives? Do we ever have times where we think or say that things like the Lord's commandments don't really *always* apply, but only sometimes? That maybe there are special circumstances where it's okay to tell lies, or steal something, or kill someone?! This could really lead to trouble if we started to think that sometimes it's okay to break the Lord's rules.
6. It was also a bad that Uzzah didn't trust the Lord. We need to believe that in our own lives, the Lord will always be looking out for us, and taking care of us. Sometimes people want to take things into their own hands, and kind of force "fate" because maybe it seems that what they want to happen won't happen, or isn't happening fast enough. It can be hard to be patient, and even adults will tell you that it can be tough to trust that the Lord has things under control, but we must learn to trust Him. Almost as important, is to trust the Lord's timing—to have confidence that the Lord will do what He needs to do –what we need Him to do—in His own time, and not on our timetable.
7. So after Uzzah died, they took the Ark to the home of Obed-Edom. What happened to his family while the ark was there? (they were blessed) After this King David was convinced that it was okay, so this time he asked priests to carry it the proper way, and the Ark came back to Jerusalem.
8. What did King David do as the Ark was entering Jerusalem? (He took off his outer garments and danced.) We may think it would be unusual to dance as a way of worshipping the Lord. As a matter of fact someone else thought it was pretty odd too. (If you've read the latter part of the chapter you can ask if they remember who was scornful, otherwise briefly explain to them Michal's reaction to David's dancing, and how she was then punished.) Michal thought it was strange, and she told David so. We need to remember that David danced because he was filled with so much joy for the fact that the Ark was coming back to where it belonged, and that was a good reason. He also didn't seem to care about what people would think. There is a valuable lesson here: we may not want to dance for the Lord, but we must keep in mind that everybody worships the Lord in their own way. We also need to remember that we each should be not embarrassed to love the Lord, and worship the Lord in the way that we think fits, and not worry about what other people will think about that.

Activities and Project

- The students will play a board game to see whose Ark gets back to Jerusalem first.

Supplies

- Copy of the Word—plus several extra copies for the kids' use.
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of these pictures illustrating the story from:

<https://newlifennarrabri.wordpress.com/tag/2-samuel/> (scroll down to find the picture of David dancing in front of the Ark)

<https://veritasdomain.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/uzzah.jpg>

https://ldsseminary.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/uzzahs__death__1193-100.jpg?resize=400%2C422

- Game board with 2 team player cards (both printed on card stock), instructions, and questions
- 1 die
- Print dot-to-dot pictures in case they are done the game quickly <https://i.pinimg.com/originals/2f/ce/61/2f61f96e6a73e4ec81a5008d03a8c1.jpg>

“The Ark Returns to Jerusalem” Game

(based on an idea from Oak Arbor New Church Sunday School)

Object of the Game:

Be the first team to get the Ark back to the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle. (You must have the exact number of moves to get there.)

Set-Up

Needed: game board, questions, 2 game pieces, and 1 die

Place all game pieces in the starting space, in the Land of the Philistines

How to Play

- Teams roll the die to see who gets a higher number; the side with the higher number goes first.
- The first team rolls the die and moves the appropriate number of spaces. The teacher/leader chooses a question off the list (use your own discretion about using easier or harder questions) and asks the team to answer. If they answer correctly, they can take one more turn. Each team takes turns, following the directions on the board and answering questions.
- The first team to land exactly on the Tabernacle **and** answer their question correctly wins.

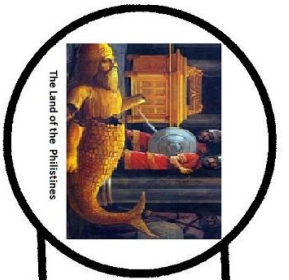
Game Pieces

Print on card stock and cut out



Game Questions

1. Why did the Lord let the Philistines capture the Ark in battle (because the Children of Israel weren't supposed to have taken it into battle)
2. Where did the Philistines keep the Ark? (in their temple)
3. What happened when the Ark was there? (their statue god fell over as if he was worshipping the Ark)
4. How did the Philistines get the Ark back to the Land of Israel? (put it on a cart that was pulled by 2 oxen)
5. What did the oxen do with the Ark (pulled it straight back to Israel)
6. Whose house did the Ark stay at for many years? (Abinidab)
7. Who decided that it was time to get the Ark and bring it back to Jerusalem where it belonged? (King David)
8. How many men did he take with him? (30,000)
9. What were these men like? (They were all the choice men.)
10. How did they try to bring the ark back? (on a cart pulled by oxen)
11. Why was that a mistake? (Ark was only supposed to be carried by the priests)
12. What noises accompanied the Ark as it came? (musical instruments)
13. Name two of the instruments, (harps, stringed instruments, tambourines, sistrums, cymbals)
14. What terrible thing happened on the way? (Uzzah touched the Ark and was instantly killed)
15. Where did the Ark stay for a while after this happened? (at the house of Obed-Edom)
16. Why did King David take it there? (He was afraid to take it to Jerusalem).
17. What happened to Obed-Edom and his family while the Ark was at their house? (they were blessed)
18. How long did the ark stay with Obed-Edom? (Three months)
19. Then David decided it was safe to bring the Ark back. How did they try to bring it back this time? (priests carried it)
20. What happened after the priests took 6 steps? (they sacrificed oxen and sheep)
21. What noises accompanied the Ark as it came this time? (shouts and trumpets)
22. What did King David do as the Ark approached Jerusalem? (danced with all his might)
23. What was King David wearing at the time? (a linen ephod)
24. How did King David's wife feel when she saw him? (she despised him)
25. What did they do when they reached the Tabernacle? (made offerings to the Lord)
26. What did King David give to all the people? (a loaf of bread, a piece of meat and a cake of raisins)



**Lose 1
turn**

**Go back
1 space**

**Jump ahead
1 space**



**Go back
1 space**



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