



The People Care for God's Word

(based on Exodus 25:10–22, 37:1–9)

What a fantastic time it had been for the Hebrew people! Moses climbed the mountain to meet with God and God gave the people ten essential rules to help them love God and love each other.

Now God wanted Moses to come up the mountain again. God had written the Ten Commandments on two flat stones. God was going to give the stones to Moses. Everyone was buzzing with the news.

Moses went to meet with God. Once again, a thick cloud covered the mountain as God came to meet with Moses. Moses entered the cloud and spoke with God. God had a special job for the people.

“I want you to build a special box, a box where I can meet with you, Moses, and all the people,” explained God.

God gave Moses instructions for building a giant box called an ark. The Ark of the Covenant would be breathtaking and very special.

The people set to work and built the ark just as God told them. They built it from acacia wood, a durable wood that grows in the wilderness.

The people covered the ark with gold—it looked beautiful. Four gold rings were attached to the box. Poles were threaded through the rings so the ark could be carried.

Finally, they made a lid from pure gold. Two golden angels were on top of the lid. The angels faced each other. Their outspread wings stretched over the chest creating a seat for God.

When the ark was finished, Moses gently placed the commandments inside. At last, the glittering lid with the angels was lowered into place.

The people knew that the ark would be with them wherever they went. The ark carried God's ten rules of love. It was a reminder of the way God wanted them to live.

God promised to come to the ark and meet with Moses. Now the people knew for sure that God was with them.



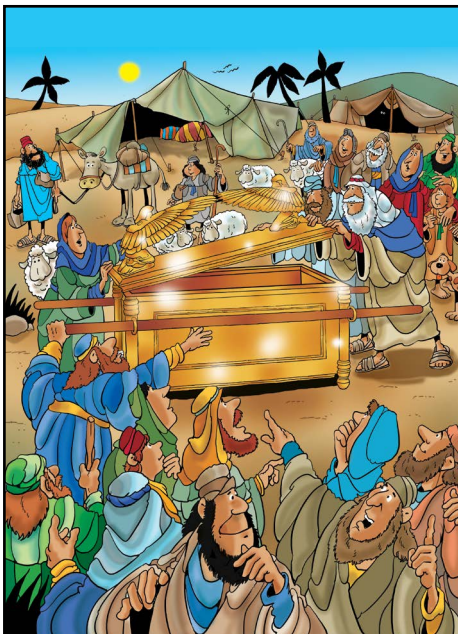
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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- The Ark of the Covenant, spoken of in Exodus 25:10–22, was a box or chest used to carry the Ten Commandments. For the people at that time, it was God's presence with them. Research illustrations of the Ark of the Covenant online. Talk about what the Ark held and why it might have looked the way it did.
- Wonder what Bible stories involve an ark. Comment that Noah's ark didn't look like a golden box with angels on it! Wonder together what Noah's ark may have looked like. Consider why a boat and the box with angels would both be called an *ark*. Wonder how these two arks could be alike.



Responding to God's Grace

- Show a jewelry box or a container you may have to hold something special. The Ark of the Covenant held God's words, which was God's presence among them. Make a special ark or container to hold something that represents God's presence with you.
- As you spend time together this week, notice the places where you see God's presence. Help your child to notice rules that you live by and explain why these rules are important.
- Keep in mind that the Ark of the Covenant was not just any old box. It contained the law, the Ten Commandments. Review the Ten Commandments and talk about how you each live them out in your daily lives. For a child-friendly version of the Ten Commandments, go to [bit.ly /GGGTenCommandments](https://bit.ly/GGGTenCommandments).

Celebrating in Gratitude

- If you made arks, dedicate them to God. Share something about your ark. After everyone has had a chance to speak, offer a prayer, thanking God for the gift of the Ten Commandments and asking God to be with you as you seek to live God's way.
- Prompt others to repeat the lines of the following prayer after you say them:

Thank you, God, for your presence with people throughout the ages. /

Thank you, God, for your presence with us today and every day. /

May our hearts be an ark, /

treasuring your Word within us. /

Amen. /

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.