



David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

(based on 2 Samuel 6:12b-15, 17-19)

The Ark of the Covenant was important to the people of God. It reminded them that God was always with them.

The Ark, the covenant box, had been stolen by the Philistines and carried away. After many years the people got it back. David took it to a town near Jerusalem for safekeeping.

Now it was time to bring the covenant box back to Jerusalem. King David set up a special tent called a tabernacle. The tabernacle would hold the ark. It was made of the finest materials and put up with care.

Soon the time came to get the covenant box. They placed it carefully on a brand new cart and brought it out of its hiding place.

Then the celebration began. King David and all the leaders formed a procession. They went ahead of the Ark of the Covenant rejoicing and singing.

It was a grand parade. The people shouted and blew horns as the Ark went by. Many of them followed the procession all the way to Jerusalem.

King David was so full of joy that he couldn't walk quietly. He leaped. He jumped. He twirled. He sang and danced before God.

When they came to Jerusalem, crowds of people were waiting for them. Everyone wanted to see the covenant box. The crowd shouted and blew their horns.

The new cart carried the covenant box to the tabernacle. David gave thanks to God and blessed the people. There was a huge party. David gave gifts of bread, meat, and raisins to everyone in Jerusalem so they could celebrate.

Once again, the people had the Ark of the Covenant in Jerusalem. It was a wonderful reminder that God was with them. It was a day to celebrate. It was a day to remember.



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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.
- Talk with your children about ways your church family is like, and different from, the people of Israel. Does your church family have a building, or meet in a temporary location? Do you have fellowship meals? Do you have parades? Do you have worship?
- If your church has a picture directory, show it to your children, and talk about the people they recognize, and what those people do in your church.



Responding to God's Grace

- Look at art in your church. This could include banners, sculptures, stained-glass windows, and woodwork. Find symbols in the artwork. Talk about the meaning of the symbols. Look up the ones you don't know.
- Ask your pastor if there is anything your family could do to take care of your church's meeting space, such as picking up trash on the parking lot, raking leaves, or straightening the hymnals.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- Think of a goal your family has achieved. Have a parade to celebrate. It can even be indoors! Use stuffed animals or action figures to add more participants.
- Have a festive meal together to celebrate your family. Use real plates and silverware, and sit together at the table. Say thank you to God for the gift of one another.
- Pray this prayer:

Thank you, God, for your grace, and for giving us people to love and to love us. Amen.