



# David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem

**Goal:** To celebrate God's presence with worship.

## RECOGNIZING GOD'S GRACE . . .

### . . . In 2 Samuel 6:12b–15, 17–19

The Ark of the Covenant represented the presence of God with the people of Israel. It was an important sacred object because it was a visible sign, or symbol, that the God who had delivered the people from Egypt was continually present now in the community of faith.

King David brought the Ark to Jerusalem, David's city. This led to great rejoicing for the people and the king. David sacrificed an ox and a choice cow. David was "dancing for the Lord with all his might, but he wore only a linen cloth. He and everyone else were celebrating by shouting and blowing horns while the chest was being carried along" (based on vv. 13–15, CEB).

The whole community was celebrating the coming of the Ark and what it meant to the people of faith. Exuberant joy led to festive celebrations. Their faith was their source of joy. King David offered a sacrifice and then "he blessed the people in the name of the Lord All-Powerful. He gave all the men and women in the crowd a small loaf of bread, some meat, and a handful of raisins, and everyone went home" (based on vv. 18–19, CEB). God's grace brought forth the people's gratitude!

### . . . In Your Children's Experiences

The visible symbol of the Ark of the Covenant helped David and the Israelites remember God's presence with them. Receiving the Ark in Jerusalem was a time of great joy and celebration. Invite the children to name the ways they know God is present with them. Sometimes it happens in worship, or maybe when they see a baptism or participate in communion. Or they might recognize that God is present when they help someone else, extending God's love and care. As children name the places and times when they know God is present, they could offer a response such as, "Thank you, God!"

### . . . In Your Relationships with the Children

This is a story full of drama, excitement, joy, and even dancing. Children know what it's like to wait for something and then to experience the event, like a birthday party, sharing joy, fun, and food. As children share their stories, they could also share some of the foods involved, like David did with raisins and bread. Consider extending this celebration to the larger church with the children offering food and blessings to church members on their way to worship.

*Dear God, inspire me through today's story to experience  
the joy and wonder of your presence. Amen.*



## Supplies

### Music & Melodies

[bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies](http://bit.ly/GGGMusicMelodies)

### Stories, Colors & More (SCM) i–iv, 9, 17

basic supplies  
(see p. vii)

internet-connected  
device

Ark of the Covenant  
with the Ten  
Commandments tablets  
from Fall 6

blanket or mats

snack

## Guided Play

choice 3: different-size  
boxes with an item in  
each box

## Exploring

choice 1: Ark of the  
Covenant

choice 3: copies of  
**Grace Notes (GN) 1**,  
toilet paper tubes

choice 4: copies of **GN 2**

## GATHERING IN GOD’S GRACE

### Before the Children Arrive

Designate a story corner, and lay out a blanket or individual mats for the children so their backs will be to the door.

Use **SCM i–ii**, “Your Visual Schedule,” to provide clear expectations and a visual cue for the group.

See **SCM iii–iv** for the key to icons (for example, **LG** **T**) and ways to adapt for children who have special needs or disabilities.

Select the activities that will work best for you and for your children. You do not need to do everything suggested!

Before the session, obtain the Ark of the Covenant, with the Ten Commandments tablets inside, last used in the session for Fall 6. Place a variety of objects in different-size boxes. Make some obvious, such as shoes in a shoe box or crayons in a crayon box, and make some a surprise, such as something tiny in a big box or something that shakes in a box.

### Welcoming and Guided Play

**TD** **B** **F** **FM** **SD**

Greet children as they arrive, and say, “Grace and peace be with you.” Prompt them to respond, “And also with you.” Be sensitive to any children who might be coming for the first time. Introduce yourself to parents/caregivers whom you do not know personally. Tell the parents today’s story is about how David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and all the people celebrated. Invite the children to choose a guided play activity to start:

- 1. Rhythm Instruments**—Invite the children to try out different rhythm instruments. After they have taken turns trying different instruments, invite the children to choose an instrument. Let the children trade instruments. Encourage taking turns so all can try different instruments.
- 2. Making Horns**—Provide thin paper plates. Invite the children to decorate the back side of the plate with available craft supplies. Help the children roll the plate into a horn shape and tape it in place. Encourage the children to make a joyful noise with their horns.
- 3. What’s in the Box**—Invite the children to guess what might be in each prepared box.

**B** *Children can be distracted by objects—ordinary items and items that are not usually present. Giving children the choice of putting items away first helps gain buy-in to better behavior. Removal of distracting items becomes necessary if children fail to willingly put them away.*



## Transitioning to Story Time

When you sense the children are ready to move into group time, call them to the story corner, playing “Bim Bam.” Encourage the children to use their horns to accompany the song.

### Celebrate A

Have the children stand in pairs, facing each other. Tell the older child in each pair to stay as serious as possible during the game. Tell the younger child in each pair that she or he is going to make the silliest faces, movements, and noises possible. The goal is to make the other child laugh. After a few moments, have the pairs switch roles.

### Jump and Shout M MS

Say the following poem, and do the motions indicated, inviting the children to repeat the words and motions with you.

God made me to jump and shout. (*jump*) /  
God made me to move about. (*wiggle hips*) /  
God made me to wiggle around. (*wave arms and turn in a circle*) /  
And God made me to sit right down. (*sit cross-legged on the ground and fold hands in lap*) /



Today's story can be found in *Growing in God's Love: A Story Bible*, edited by Elizabeth F. Caldwell and Carol A. Wehrheim (Louisville, KY: Flyaway Books, 2018), [www.pcusastore.com](http://www.pcusastore.com).

### Hearing the Story L

Open the Bible to 2 Samuel 6 so that the children know the story comes from the Bible. Tell the children that they are going to hear a story about how David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem, and all the people celebrated. Place the Ark of the Covenant in the center of the group. Ask the children if they remember what is inside the Ark. Open the box, and invite the children to look inside. Remind them that the Ten Commandments were God's words to the people to help them love God and love one another.

Read **SCM 9**. The actions in parentheses will be used in the second reading of the story. Conclude the story by prompting the children to say, “Amen.”

Read the story again, inviting the children to follow your actions indicated in parentheses in the story. Actions for David and the Ark or Ark of the Covenant will be repeated each time they are read.

- ▼ David—place hands on head like a crown
- ▼ Ark or Ark of the Covenant—make a box shape with hands



## EXPLORING GOD'S GRACE

### 1. Have a Parade

B MS

Using the Ark of the Covenant, have two children carry the Ark on their shoulders. Designate one child to be David, and tell that child to leap and twirl in front of the Ark, leading the parade. Invite the other children to dance and sing behind the Ark. Have the children take turns carrying the Ark and leading the parade as David.

### 2. Celebrate with Music

B SD

Hand out rhythm instruments. Play “Alabad al Señor (Let Us Give Praise to God)” and “Make a Joyful Noise” and invite the children to play their instruments and dance to the music. Use the following suggestions to engage the children in the music with their instruments:

- ▼ Point to children to play their instruments.
- ▼ Ask the children to play their instruments as quietly as they can.
- ▼ Instruct the children to play their instruments following you on a beat. Begin slowly and speed up the beat.
- ▼ Conduct the children, having half the group play and then the other half.

### 3. Looking for God

FM



Remind the children that the people of God rejoiced because they saw God in the Ark of the Covenant. Tell them that they are going to make a special tool for looking for God. Give each child a toilet paper tube and **GN 1**. Invite the children to color and decorate the “Looking for God” strip. Help the children cut out “Looking for God” strips. Instruct them to glue the paper on to their tube (see sidebar photo). Punch two holes in each toilet paper tube on the opposite sides of one end. String yarn through the holes and hang the tubes around the children’s necks. Invite the children to look for God in the following places:

- ▼ Look out the window, and ask what they see. Say, “God is outside. God is everywhere!”
- ▼ Look around the room and find a friend. Say, “God is in our friends. God is everywhere!”
- ▼ Find a Bible. Say, “God is in God’s Word. God is everywhere!”

**FM** *Assist with scissor cutting only as needed. Children are building an important fine motor skill that helps lay the foundation for good pencil grip and control.*

Use “wonder” questions that do not force a child to remember facts. Wondering questions help a child think aloud. Answers are neither right nor wrong. They help teach children to speak from their hearts.

This is the last session using the Ark of the Covenant with the tablets.



Ask parents and caregivers for their email addresses so that you can provide them with the link to [www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads](http://www.pcusastore.com/GGGdownloads), where they can download coloring pages, *Grace Sightings*, audio stories, and songs (see p. vii).

#### 4. Coloring Page

Hand out copies of **GN 2** and crayons. Invite the children to color the picture of David and the Ark of the Covenant. Engage the children in conversation as they color, using the following wondering questions:

- ▼ I wonder, “Was the Ark heavy? How heavy was it?”
- ▼ I wonder, “Where did the people take the Ark in Jerusalem?”
- ▼ I wonder, “Where can we find God’s words in our church?”

**T** *Transitions can be difficult. This may be a good time for some quick physical activities, such as hopping on one foot, clapping hands, and wiggling fingers.*

### LOVING AND SERVING GOD



Have the children help clean up the space.

Call the children to snack time, singing “God Is So Good”—**SCM 17**. Repeat words and phrases as seems appropriate. Encourage the children to use their horns or rhythm instruments to play along.

Call everyone to sit around a table or on the floor.

Invite the children to repeat each line of the following prayer.

Food to eat. /  
Food to share. /  
Thank you, God, /  
for all your care. /  
Amen. /

Remind the children that God is everywhere. Encourage them to look for God in church, at home, outdoors, and with friends. As the children leave, bless them: “(Name), dance and sing, leap and twirl; the grace of God is with you.”



Looking  
for God





## David Brings the Ark to Jerusalem



**When David was king, he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.**

