

Study 7



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Refreshments / Get Acquainted
2. Prayer & Praise List / Group Fund
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text: 1 Chronicles 13 and 15

Lesson Title: *The Presence of God*

Lesson Main Idea: David, despite his flaws, was a man after God's heart. In fact, God's own Son, Jesus Christ, would be referred to as the Son of David in keeping with God's promise to send Messiah. With a tentative peace established in a united Israel, David turned his attention to spiritual matters on a national scale. The Ark of the Covenant had not been an active part of Israel's culture for almost a decade. David's close connection with God motivated him to bring the Ark to Jerusalem so the people of Israel would also share a sense of closeness to God. Christians today can learn from David about the importance of being aware of God's presence in their lives.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

What do Christians need to do to get closer to God?





Connecting the Study

What was the *Ark of the Covenant*? The word "ark" means box or chest. A covenant is an agreement, a pledge or a promise. The Ark of the Covenant was a physical representation and container of things pertaining to God's agreement with Israel. God Himself gave Moses the original, very specific blueprints for constructing this container. It was made mostly of wood that was gold plated inside and out. The covering to the box was called the "mercy seat" and it was made of solid gold. God's glory rested there, meaning the light, the *shechinah glory* of God, resided visibly on the Ark of the Covenant. Overlooking the mercy seat were two cherubim (angels) bowed down facing each other. Inside the Ark were three items: a golden jar containing manna, Aaron's ancient rod, and the tables of the covenant (the tablets of stone with the commandments).

1 Chronicles 13 and 15 tell of the events of 2 Samuel 6 with more detail so for this study we will spend our time there. Examining this Ark moving project will reveal things that believers of all ages should value and pursue as they live out there days here on earth.



Bible Study

1 Chronicles 13 and 15

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

1 Chronicles 13:1-5 And David consulted with the captains of thousands and hundreds, and with every leader. 2 And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: 3 And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we inquired not at it in the days of Saul. 4 And all the congregation said that they would do so: for the thing was right in the eyes of

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

all the people. 5 So David gathered all Israel together, from Shihor of Egypt even unto the entering of Hamath, to bring the ark of God from Kirjath-jearim. David's 13 years of military leadership training in the wilderness and 7 years of on the job training as King in Hebron left David with considerable diplomatic skills. He consulted with all of those with any authority under him. Additionally, he involved the entire population in the decision to bring the Ark to the City of David, Jerusalem. **They made the decision to get closer to God.**

Group Questions

- What was the purpose in moving the Ark to Jerusalem?
- Was David obligated to involve others in the decision to move the Ark?
- What was the benefit in consulting with the leadership and the population of Israel?

1 Chronicles 13:6-14 And David went up, and all Israel, to Baalah, that is, to Kirjath-jearim, which belonged to Judah, to bring up thence the ark of God the LORD, that dwelleth between the cherubims, whose name is called on it. 7 And they carried the ark of God in a new cart out of the house of Abinadab: and Uzza and Ahio drave the cart. 8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets. 9 And when they came unto the threshingfloor of Chidon, Uzza put forth his hand to hold the ark; for the oxen stumbled. 10 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzza, and he smote him, because he put his hand to the ark: and there he died before God. 11 And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzza: wherefore that place is called Perez-uzza to this day. 12 And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me? 13 So David brought not the ark home to himself to the city of David, but carried it aside into the house of Obed-edom the Gittite. 14 And the ark of God remained with the family of Obed-edom in his house three months. And the LORD blessed the house of Obed-edom, and all that he had.

Numbers 4:15 gives a specific instruction about how to move the Ark. There is also a specific warning if the instructions are not followed. **And who always keeps His word?** God does.



Group Questions

- Does God care about details?
- What are some things God is very specific about?
- Who can think of a time when you ignored the details and God needed to draw your attention to them?
- Who would like to tell us about a time like this in their life? What did you learn?

1 Chronicles 15:11-15 And David called for Zadok and Abiathar the priests, and for the Levites, for Uriel, Asaiah, and Joel, Shemaiah, and Eliel, and Amminadab, 12 And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. 13 For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order. 14 So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel. 15 And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.

The first attempt to move the Ark, they didn't heed the warning of Numbers 4:15. This time, they're going to do it right.

Sanctify yourselves. Sanctify in the original Hebrew carried a number of descriptive English words in its meaning: consecrate, dedicate, prepare, be holy, be separate, be set apart. God's presence was visually seen at the Ark. As the priests were preparing to near His presence, they were told to prepare themselves by being set apart, separate from this world and dedicated to God. And so that is what they did. The priests followed God's instructions for a holy approach to God. **They made preparations for being closer to God.**



Group Question

- What lesson can we learn from how these priests approached God that would benefit how we approach God today? (**Listen to 1 Peter 2:9** *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*)

1 Chronicles 15:25-28 So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obed-edom with joy. 26 And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams. 27 And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen. 28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps. **The moving of the Ark was a significant event in the spiritual journey of the children of Israel. Although it was work, it was a joy-filled process and a victorious celebration. Israel, under David's leadership did what was necessary at the time to get closer to God. They made it happen.**

B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)

1. What do Christians need to do to get closer to God?
 - A. I must **make the decision** to **get** closer to God. (if I don't feel like being closer to God, ask Him to give me the desire to be closer)
 - B. I must **prepare** for **being** closer to God. (I can't practice sinful habits that will keep me separated from closeness with God)
 - C. I must **do what's necessary** to **enjoy** closeness with God. (I have to do the work of practicing the disciplines of prayer and Bible study)



Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

2. The “**sacrifice**” of a daily devotional time is **ruined** by not **obeying** the teachings of God's Word.
3. **Practicing** the **disciplines** of staying close to God can and should be a **joyous** process.

C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

Application Questions

1. Where am I in the process of getting closer to God?
 - a. making the decision
 - b. making preparations
 - c. making it happen
2. What do I need to do to get to the next level?
3. If I am already “making it happen”, who is God reaching through me to help them get closer to Him?

