

## LESSON 13: DAVID CELEBRATES

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Monkeys

 2 Samuel 6

11/24/2019

### Teachers Dig In

#### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: 2 Samuel 6
- In This Passage: King David leads a parade to bring the Ark of the Lord back to Israel. It's a big celebration, with music and dancing. David is wearing clothes that make him not look like a king, and his wife isn't impressed by his dancing. But David knows that God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.
- Bible Point: God is praiseworthy...
- Application: ...so we celebrate him.
- Summary Verse: "So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows" (Matthew 10:31).

#### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *God is praiseworthy*. Kids celebrate a lot of things! They celebrate sports, celebrities, special occasions, and more. Help kids tap into their celebrating spirit as they consider how to connect with God.
- Think About: What's the last thing you celebrated? What do you want to celebrate about God?

#### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray that your kids will unashamedly celebrate God.

#### Quick Tip

- This lesson is full of celebration! Want to step it up a notch? Decorate your room like you're having a party. Hang balloons, banners, and streamers; have kids wear party hats; play fun music and have party snacks for kids as they enter. While this isn't essential to the lesson, it will help set a fun tone of celebration.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers have a celebration march and talk about why God is praiseworthy.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- cart with wheels
- various preschool-friendly instruments (1 per child)
- music
- music player
- pretzel nuggets (1 per child)
- raisins (½ per child)
- muffins (1 small piece per child)
- napkins (1 per child)

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't have official preschool instruments, you can create instruments out of supplies you already have. For example, 2 wooden spoons can be tapped together, and dry rice can be put in a plastic Easter egg to shake. Kids can even make a fist and hum through it to make a horn sound.
- If you don't have a cart, use a toddler toy with wheels, a wagon, or a cooler with wheels.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers celebrate God in various ways.



### OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers bounce a basketball and tennis ball together.

#### Supplies

- basketball (1 for every 5 kids)
- tennis ball (1 for every 5 kids)



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers keep balloons up in the air.

#### Supplies

- balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- music
- music player

#### Easy Prep

- Clear furniture or toys so you have an open playing area, and have kids spread out in the space.



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers praise God with a rhythm game.

#### Supplies

- various preschool-friendly instruments (1 per child)\*

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't have official preschool instruments, create instruments out of supplies you already have. For example, 2 wooden spoons can be tapped together, and dry rice can be put in a plastic Easter egg to shake.



## CRAFT

**Preschoolers make ribbon wands.**

### Supplies

- extra-jumbo 8-inch craft sticks (at least 1 per child)
- colorful ribbon cut into various lengths, between 18 and 24 inches (at least 8 pieces per child)
- transparent tape
- colorful duct tape
- chenille wires (2-4 per child)
- upbeat music
- music player

### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*Marked supplies are also used in Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers link arms with a partner and swing each other in a circle.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by saying “happy birthday” with an extra “happy” as many times as the child is old. If the child is turning 5, they’d say, “Happy, happy, happy, happy, happy birthday!”
- Collect the offering.

### Introduce the Lesson

Say: **The Bible says God is praiseworthy. That means God’s so amazing that we can celebrate him. God loves us so much, and everything he does is awesome, so we tell him. We can celebrate God in so many ways. Let’s start today by talking about celebrations or parties we’ve been to.**

### Share

- Share about the last party *you* went to and what you did to celebrate.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about the last party *they* went to.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

### Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Parties and celebrations are fun—and there are lots of things to celebrate, like people’s birthdays and when our team wins a game. Today we’ll find out that God is praiseworthy and we can celebrate him all the time! As we read the Bible, we’ll hear how one person celebrated God, and we’ll find out how being friends with God is something big to celebrate!**

Pray, thanking God that he’s praiseworthy.



## Supplies

- Bible
- cart with wheels
- various preschool-friendly instruments (1 per child)
- music
- music player
- pretzel nuggets (1 per child)
- raisins (½ per child)
- muffins (1 small piece per child)
- napkins (1 per child)

## Easy Prep

- If you don't have official preschool instruments, you can create instruments out of supplies you already have. For example, 2 wooden spoons can be tapped together, and dry rice can be put in a plastic Easter egg to shake. Kids can even make a fist and hum through it to make a horn sound.
- If you don't have a cart, use a toddler toy with wheels, a wagon, or a cooler with wheels.

## Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the activity. You can find the album [here](#).

## Sing and March

Stand next to the cart. Say: **Today we'll find out that God is praiseworthy. That means we celebrate how great God is and that he deserves our praise.** Show the Bible. **The Bible tells about a time God helped his friends get back something that was very special to them. It was called the Ark of God, and it reminded God's friends that God's with them. This Ark wasn't a boat like Noah's ark. This was a special box filled with things that reminded God's friends of all the ways God had helped them. God's friend David was king at the time. David gathered 30,000 soldiers to get the Ark of God and take it back to where they lived. Gather around me and pretend you're David's soldiers.** Lead kids to gather around you.

Say: **David and the soldiers put the Ark of God on a cart so they could roll it back home.** Lead kids to pretend to lift an imaginary Ark of God onto the cart.

Say: **Two people walked in front of the cart, and the rest marched behind the cart. They were celebrating because God is praiseworthy. Let's celebrate God with a song.** Invite two kids to march in front of the cart, invite two to push the cart, and have the rest march behind the cart.

Play a familiar praise song, and lead kids in singing along as they march around the room with the cart. Throughout the song, rotate who is marching in front of the cart, who is pushing it, and who is marching behind.

## Play Instruments

After the song, say: **God is praiseworthy. He takes care of his friends, and he even got the Ark of God back for them. As the people marched home with the Ark of God on the cart, they even played instruments to celebrate God. Let's celebrate with instruments, too.** Give each child an instrument, or show kids how to make a fist and hum through it to make a horn noise.

Lead kids to march with the cart in the same formation as they did before, but this time they'll sound their instruments as they march. Occasionally rotate who is marching in front of the cart, who is pushing it, and who is marching behind it.

After a few minutes, have kids sit. Say: **On the way home, King David needed to stop and leave the Ark of God at one family's house. He left it there for three months, and God blessed the family who**

lived there. That means God gave them everything they needed and gave them a good life. Then King David came to take the Ark of God all the way home.

### **Dance and Celebrate**

Say: **King David and some of God's other friends danced as they took the Ark of God back to David's city. We can celebrate God and show that God is praiseworthy by dancing, too.**

Turn on some music, and lead kids to dance around the cart.

After the song, say: **When David entered his city dancing, his wife looked down from her window and saw David. She thought he looked silly dancing, and she didn't think he should be with regular people. David was king, so she thought he should be serious and stay away from people who weren't royal or very important.**

Tell about a time you might've looked silly.

Ask: • **When have you looked silly?** Preschoolers might share about a silly face they made, a silly hat or outfit they tried on, or a time they had chocolate smudged on their faces.

Say: **When David's wife told him she didn't like that he was dancing, David told her that he was celebrating his joy for God. David knew that God is praiseworthy, and he wasn't afraid to celebrate the wonderful things God did.**

### **Eat and Celebrate**

Say: **After David danced his way into the city, he made a special tent for the Ark of God. He made sure the tent was very nice. David knew that God is praiseworthy, so David wanted the tent that held the Ark of God to be special. David even gave each of God's friends who were with him some special foods.**

Have the children sit in a circle. Give each child a napkin, a pretzel nugget, half a raisin, and a piece of muffin. Tell the children to wait to eat until you tell them to.

Say: **David celebrated with food. He gave each person a loaf of bread.** Have each child pick up the pretzel nugget and eat it. **David also gave them each a cake of raisins.** Have each child eat the half a raisin. **And David gave each person another kind of cake.** Have each child eat the muffin piece.

Say: **Then all the people went home. God's friends celebrated God's greatness in many different ways, and we can, too. God is praiseworthy, and we celebrate him.**



### Celebrate Our Way

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#### Celebrate God

Say: Today we found out God is praiseworthy. God's friend David knew that, so he celebrated by dancing and playing instruments. We can celebrate God, too. Let's celebrate now as we think of reasons God is praiseworthy.

Have the children stand in a circle. Say: **God made each of us. Have you ever seen a newborn baby? God made that baby so perfectly. Let's clap to let God know he's praiseworthy for how he made us.** Lead the children in clapping.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, for making us.**

Say: **God made the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky. Think of how pretty the sky is on a bright sunny day or a warm summer night. Let's wave our arms to show God we think he's praiseworthy for the world he made.** Lead children in waving their arms.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, for making a beautiful world for us to live in.**

Say: **God watches over us. Think of how we got to church safely today. Let's thank God and praise him for getting us here safely.** Lead children in jumping joyfully to praise God.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, for how strong you are. You protect us and keep us safe.**

Say: **God loves us so much, and he's always with us. His love feels like a warm hug. Let's praise God for all the love and care he gives us.** Lead children in hugging themselves.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, because you're always with us and you love us no matter what!**

#### Close

Say: **God loves when we celebrate him. And God is so praiseworthy! He's so powerful, so kind, and so loving. Let's thank him for using his power to take care of us.** Lead kids in one more prayer, thanking God.

Say: You can celebrate God anytime, anywhere. This week, when you see a newborn baby, a bright sunny sky, or anything that reminds you of God, celebrate him and how praiseworthy he is. I hope you'll come back next week and share some of the reasons you celebrate God this week.



## OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

### Bounce So High!

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#### Supplies

- basketball (1 for every 5 kids)
- tennis ball (1 for every 5 kids)

#### Demonstrate the Ball Bounce

Say: **I have a basketball and a tennis ball. Watch what happens when I hold them together and drop them at the same time.**

- Place your left hand under the basketball.
- Use your right hand to place and hold the tennis ball on top of the basketball.
- Have kids count to three with you, and then drop both balls at the same time. Make sure the balls are touching as you drop them. The upward force of the basketball should make the tennis ball bounce high into the air.
- Drop the balls again. This time call for a child to help you hold the tennis ball on top of the basketball, and drop them together.

#### Have Kids Bounce Balls

Say: **Let's all work together to bounce the tennis balls high into the air. But this time we'll say things to celebrate God, too!**

- Form groups of five, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group.
- Give each group a basketball and a tennis ball.
- Have kids take turns working with their group's adult or teen helper to drop the basketball and tennis ball together.
- Before each drop, have kids choose words that praise God. Examples include "God, you're powerful!" "God, you're great!" and "Yay, God!" Have kids shout their praise together as they drop the balls and watch the tennis ball bounce high.
- Encourage kids to clap, jump, and cheer for God each time the balls bounce.

#### Talk About It

Say: **Celebrating and praising God is fun! When we celebrate God and tell how great he is, it's like we lift him up. Think of how your heart feels joy when people say kind things to you. It almost feels like they're lifting you up. God loves when we say kind things about him and praise him, too. And God is the most praiseworthy of all. That's why we celebrate God—because he's the top of the top!**





## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

### Lift Him Up!

[10 min]

### Supplies

- balloons (1 for every 5 kids)
- music
- music player

### Easy Prep

- Clear furniture or toys so you have an open playing area, and have kids spread out in the space.

### Tips

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the album [here](#).
- To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly.

### Keep Balloons in the Air

Say: **When I see a balloon, I think about parties! Maybe you've had balloons at your birthday party. Balloons help us celebrate. Let's play a game and use balloons to celebrate and praise God!**

- Play music, and toss balloons into the air. Have kids use their hands to keep the balloons in the air. If one touches the floor, a child nearby can simply toss the balloon back into the air.
- Play for about a minute, and then change the rules. Now kids can use only their elbows to keep the balloons in the air.
- Play music again, and cheer for kids as they keep the balloons in the air with only their elbows.
- Stop the music again, and call out another body part for kids to use instead. Ideas include their heads, shoulders, and knees.

### Talk About It

Say: **We hit the balloons in a lot of different ways. We used our hands, our elbows, and even our heads! God is praiseworthy, and we can praise him in different ways.**

Share one way *you* like to praise God. Perhaps you like to sing with your eyes closed or lift up your hands during worship songs. Or maybe you like to talk to God and praise him for the beautiful things around you as you walk outside.

Ask: • **How do *you* like to celebrate God and tell him how great he is?** Kids could talk about clapping their hands, dancing to music, or telling God how great he is when they pray before a meal.

Say: **God is praiseworthy. He's so special, and he loves us so much. There are lots of ways to celebrate his awesomeness!**



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

### One, Two, Three, Praise With Me!

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- various preschool-friendly instruments (1 per child)\*

#### Easy Prep

- If you don't have official preschool instruments, create instruments out of supplies you already have. For example, 2 wooden spoons can be tapped together, and dry rice can be put in a plastic Easter egg to shake.

#### Tip

- Starting each round with "One, two, three, praise with me!" will give kids extra time to think of a rhythm when it's their turn to play.

#### Repeat Rhythms

Say: **God is praiseworthy, and we can celebrate and praise him with instruments! Let's play a game. I'll play a beat, and then you repeat!**

- Have kids stand in a circle.
- Give each child an instrument, and keep one for yourself.
- Have everyone tap the beat with their instruments as they say, "One, two, three, praise with me!" Then make up a simple beat, and pause for the kids to repeat.
- Use different rhythms, and incorporate faster and slower beats. You can also have kids hold their instruments high above their heads, behind their backs, or low to the ground as they play. Remember to start each new rhythm with "One, two, three, praise with me!"
- If kids each have different instruments, have them occasionally pass instruments to the right so they all have a turn to play each type of instrument.

#### Lead Rhythms

Say: **Now let's all make beats for our friends to echo. When it's your turn, play a beat for us to repeat!**

- Start with the child to your right. Say, "One, two, three, praise with me!" and then have him or her make up a simple beat. If the child isn't sure what to do, have him or her simply play three beats. The child can decide to play them at a slow, medium, or fast pace.
- Have kids all repeat the beat, and then move on to the next person.
- Go around the circle, giving each child at least one turn to lead a beat.

#### Talk About It

Say: **I love praising God with instruments. There's a verse in the Bible that says, "Praise [God] with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals. Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord!" (Psalm 150:5-6). That means we can praise God in many different ways, and everyone in the whole world can celebrate him. God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him! Let's do that right now.** This time lead kids in a simple beat as they say, "Praise God! We love you!"



## CRAFT

### Ribbon Wands

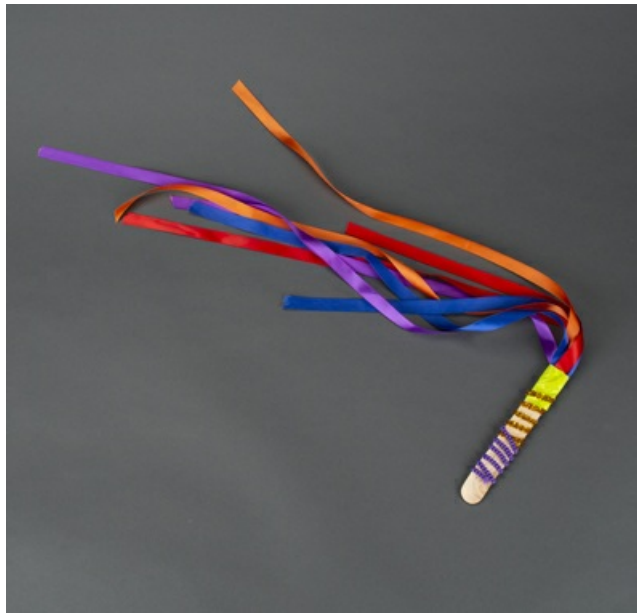
[20 min]

#### Supplies

- extra-jumbo 8-inch craft sticks (at least 1 per child)
- colorful ribbon cut into various lengths, between 18 and 24 inches (at least 8 pieces per child)
- transparent tape
- colorful duct tape
- chenille wires (2-4 per child)
- upbeat music
- music player

#### Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the activity. You can find the album [here](#).

#### Make Ribbon Wands

Say: **God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.** David celebrated God by singing, dancing, playing music, and eating yummy food! It was like a big party to celebrate how amazing God is. Show preschoolers the sample craft. **Let's make these colorful ribbon wands so we can celebrate God, too!**

- Give each preschooler a craft stick, and let him or her pick out about eight lengths of ribbon.
- Help preschoolers tape each ribbon to one end of the craft stick with transparent tape.
- While preschoolers work, talk about ways we celebrate at a party, such as wearing birthday hats, eating cake, hitting a piñata, playing games, or ordering in special food.
- After preschoolers have taped on all their pieces of ribbon, wrap a piece of duct tape around the ribbon end of the craft stick to keep all the ribbons in place.
- Let preschoolers decorate the handles of their ribbon wands by wrapping chenille wires around the craft sticks.
- Let preschoolers make a second ribbon wand as time allows.

#### Celebrate With Ribbon Wands

Say: **God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. Let's celebrate God right now!**

Play upbeat music, and let preschoolers dance and wave their ribbon wands with the music.

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