

LESSON 13: DAVID CELEBRATES

Leader Guide for Grades 1 & 2

Classroom: Greenhouse Kids

 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



OBJECT LESSON

Kids bounce a basketball and tennis ball together.

Supplies

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



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids decorate boxes, do an experience with name tags, and celebrate.

Supplies

- Bible
- large box (at least 1x1x1 foot) (1 for every 4 kids)
- markers
- dowels (2 for every 4 kids)
- name tags (several per child)
- streamers
- tambourines or other instruments (optional)



CRAFT

Kids make confetti launchers.

Supplies

- “Confetti Launchers Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- paper towel tubes (1 per child)
- scissors
- duct tape
- pencils (1 for each child to keep)
- rubber bands (1 per child)
- markers
- construction paper
- hole punches
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids use cups to carefully pass balloons.

Supplies

- large plastic cups (1 per child)
- inflated balloon
- shiny foil star stickers (a few sheets)
- 2 chairs
- upbeat music (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place 1 of the chairs at an end of your room and the other chair directly across from the first at the opposite end.
- Place the balloon on the first chair and the sheets of stickers on the second chair.

- music player (optional)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids 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.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids celebrate God in various ways.

**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 kids thumb wrestle with a friend.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids sing “Happy Birthday” with their lips tucked over their teeth.
- 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 small groups, have kids share about the last party *they* went to.
- After small groups have discussed, have a few kids 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.



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

Bounce So High!

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!**



Supplies

- Bible
- large box (at least 1x1x1 foot) (1 for every 4 kids)
- markers
- dowels (2 for every 4 kids)
- name tags (several per child)
- streamers
- tambourines or other instruments (optional)

Decorate Boxes

Say: In our Bible story today, there's a special treasure box called the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a box that held some special objects that were reminders of what God had done for the Israelites.

Ask: • **Where do you store special memories? What do you keep there?** Tell kids about your memory storage first.

Say: Our memory boxes or drawers are special, but the Ark was even more special. It reminded God's friends that he was with them—it was a reminder that God's friends could see with their eyes. And it was so special that God had special rules for it. No one could open it and look inside. No one could even touch it! It was a reminder that God is so special and praiseworthy and we need to take him seriously. **Praiseworthy** means he deserves a lot of compliments!

Since the Ark was a reminder that God is praiseworthy, let's decorate a box that can remind *us* who God is.

Have kids form groups of four. Have each group use markers to decorate a box with words or drawings that offer praise to God.

Say: **Because no one could touch the Ark, people usually carried it on special poles.** Have each group set its box on two dowels, and have each group member hold an end of a dowel to carry the box around the room.



Say: In today's Bible story, the Israelites had to move the Ark. After some accidents along the way, David realized that God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. Let's see what David did!

Wear and Remove Name Tags

Say: **In a little bit, we'll see how David kept his attention on God. Sometimes we get distracted and we think only about ourselves instead of paying attention to God.**

Distribute several name tags to each child. Say: **Think about things that distract you. First think of something you're worried about.** Write on a name tag something you're worried about and show it to kids; then stick it on your clothing. Allow time for kids to draw something they're worried about and stick it on their clothing.

Say: **Next think of something you're excited about that's distracting you.** Quickly write on another name tag something you're excited about that might distract you from prayer or worship. Show kids, and then stick it on your clothing. Allow time for kids to draw theirs and then stick them on their clothing.

Say: **Maybe you're hungry or tired. Draw how you're feeling if that's distracting you.** Create your own name tag, and then allow time for kids to do the same.

Say: **You might be distracted thinking about another person, such as a friend or family member. Draw that person.** Create your own name tag, and allow time for kids to do the same.

Say: **Right now our clothes show all the things that could be distracting our hearts from praising God. Let's see what happened when David praised God.**

Read 2 Samuel 6:13-15.

Say: **Wow! What a celebration! And here's something important to know: David was the king at this point, so normally he'd be wearing important royal robes. Those robes would show that David was an important person—a king! But listen again to what he wore as they moved the Ark.**

Read 2 Samuel 6:14.

Say: **David was ready to worship God. As a sign that he was focused on God, he didn't wear clothes that showed off how great *he* was. Instead, he wore clothes that people wore when their job was to be close to God. His change of clothes showed that he was ready to praise God because God is praiseworthy.**

Just as David removed his king's robes—the things that might keep the focus on himself—we can remove our distractions. I'll lead a prayer with time for you to talk to God silently and ask him to help you focus on him. As you pray, remove the name tag you're praying about and set it aside.

Pray: **God, don't let us focus on our worries more than you.** Allow time for silent prayer and for kids to remove their tags.

Pray: **God, don't let us focus on our excitement more than you.** Allow time for silent prayer and for kids to remove their tags.

Pray: **God, don't let us focus on our emotions more than you.** Allow time for silent prayer and for kids to remove their tags.

Pray: **God, don't let us focus on other people more than you.** Allow time for silent prayer and for kids to remove their tags. Then walk around with a garbage can to collect kids' name tags.

Say: **There's plenty of time to think about those things later on today. God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. Let's focus on that now!**

Celebrate

Have kids choose a way to celebrate. They might sing, dance (if your denomination allows), throw or wave streamers, cheer, or play instruments. If you didn't bring instruments, let kids be creative in finding instruments. For example, they could use markers to play drums on a table, shake a box of crayons like a maraca, or clap their hands like cymbals.

After about a minute of praise (or long enough to start to feel a little awkward), lead kids in this discussion.

Ask: • **How did you feel when you were praising God now?**

• **What was your goal or focus while you praised God?**

Say: **David wasn't focused on himself when he praised God. He didn't care what he looked like because it wasn't about him—it was about God. But his wife, Michal, *did* care. Here's what she had to say when she saw him.**

Read 2 Samuel 6:16, 20.

Ask: • **Have you ever been criticized for praising God or living for him? Tell about that.** Share your own example first. Then have kids share in pairs, and then ask a few kids to report to the whole group.

Say: **David didn't care what Michal thought. He wasn't trying to put on a show, so here's how he responded.**

Read 2 Samuel 6:21-22.

Say: **Sometimes when people worship, they dance, raise their hands, or close their eyes. If you're focused on what other people think of you, doing those things might feel silly. But when we remember that God is praiseworthy, we celebrate him no matter what other people think about us!**

And praising God doesn't just mean singing at church. David was in the streets praising God! David was a musician, so he often praised God in a musical way. But maybe you feel like praising God in a different way. You might make up poems to praise God or sit and enjoy his creation. Maybe you like to praise God in really active ways. God is praiseworthy, and there's no one right way to praise him. However you want to praise God, it's good! Just keep the focus on him, and don't worry if other people think you're foolish.



CRAFT

Confetti Launchers

[20 min]

Supplies

- “Confetti Launchers Instructions” handout (download [here](#))
- paper towel tubes (1 per child)
- scissors
- duct tape
- pencils (1 for each child to keep)
- rubber bands (1 per child)
- markers
- construction paper
- hole punches
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



Make Confetti Launchers

Show kids the sample craft you made. Give each child a paper towel tube. Set out the remaining supplies to share, and lead kids through the instructions on the “Confetti Launchers Instructions” handout to make confetti launchers.

- Cut the paper towel tube in half to make two shorter tubes.
- Cut along the length of one of the shorter tubes. Squeeze it to make it narrower so it can fit inside the other tube.
- Use duct tape to secure the narrow tube at the smaller size.
- Also use duct tape to cover one end of the narrow tube.
- Punch two holes across from each other near the open end of the narrow tube.
- Cut four slits near one end of the wider tube, as shown.
- Stick a pencil through the holes in the narrow tube. (If the holes tear at all, repair them with duct tape.)
- Put the narrow tube into the wider tube, with the pencil at the bottom and the slits at the top.
- Put a rubber band through the slits in the wider tube, and stretch it down over the pencil on both sides.
- Make confetti by punching holes out of various colors of construction paper. You'll want at least 150 pieces of confetti.

(Put them in a cup for now.)

- If time allows, decorate your cardboard tubes with words or images that praise God.

Launch

- Have kids load their launchers by pouring the confetti into the top.
- On the count of three, kids will each shout a reason God is praiseworthy and launch the confetti.
- Have kids collect the confetti and put it back in their cups.

Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell about a celebration you went to where there was confetti.** Share your own story first.

• **Why is confetti a fun thing to celebrate with? Why is it a fun way to celebrate God?**

Say: **God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.** We can celebrate God with confetti as we shout out his praises.

Have kids take their confetti launchers and cups of confetti home. Encourage kids to use them with their friends and families to celebrate and praise God.



LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Park the Ark

Supplies

- large plastic cups (1 per child)
- inflated balloon
- shiny foil star stickers (a few sheets)
- 2 chairs
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place 1 of the chairs at an end of your room and the other chair directly across from the first at the opposite end.
- Place the balloon on the first chair and the sheets of stickers on the second chair.

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.

Pass the Balloon “Ark”

Say: **In today's Bible story, we heard about how David and his people celebrated God while they moved the Ark. David and his people celebrated God with music, shouts of joy, dancing, and blowing on horns, but they were always careful with God's Ark because it's very, very special.**

Let's play a game where you'll move a pretend Ark—a balloon—being careful not to touch it or drop it. And you'll get to celebrate along the way, too!

- Form pairs (you or an adult or teen helper can play if needed to even out the number of players).
- Give everyone a cup, and have kids spread out between the two chairs, with partners standing side by side.
- The pair closest to the chair with the balloon will pick up the balloon by bringing their cups to each side of the balloon and pressing the cups toward each other so the balloon can be held and carried with only the cups making contact with the balloon.



- The first pair will then walk the balloon to the next pair to pass it off without anyone touching the balloon—only the cups.
- Once the balloon makes it to the chair with the stickers, that pair will carefully set the balloon down on the chair, place a celebratory sticker on each of their cups, and then pick up the balloon with the cups again and move it back to the

starting chair.

- All pairs will move up a position and move the balloon between the chairs repeatedly until everyone has a star sticker on his or her cup.
- Throughout the game, all the kids can shout, cheer, whistle, sing, jump, dance, and celebrate God as they move their pretend Ark.
- If anyone drops or touches the balloon, the balloon must go back to the first chair to restart the relay round.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play to encourage celebration.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you do to treat the balloon carefully?**

• **Treating the Ark carefully was a reminder that God is praiseworthy. What reminds you of that?**

Say: **We celebrate things that mean a lot to us. God and God's Ark meant a lot to David and his people, and they weren't afraid to celebrate in a big, loud way because God is praiseworthy. God is so good and so important that we can make a big deal about him in our lives even if others think we're being silly.**



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!**



Celebrate Our Way

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.**