

LESSON 13: DAVID CELEBRATES

Leader Guide for Grades 5 & 6

Classroom: Deeply Rooted

 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 observe how pressure affects muscles in their arms.

Supplies

- wall
- door frame (optional)



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids decorate an ark, remove their distractions, and celebrate God.

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)



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids praise God when music plays and freeze when it stops.

Supplies

- various party noisemakers such as kazoos, blow horns, whistles, flutes, hand clappers, ratchet twirlers, bells, and rattles (1 per child)
- upbeat praise music
- music player



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids pass a balloon “ark” using cups.

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.



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Kids celebrate God.

Supplies

- streamers*
- instruments*



CRAFT

Kids make confetti cannons to celebrate God.

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 (various colors)
- hole punches
- 3-ounce cups (1 per child)

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 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: **Today we’re going to learn that God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. One way we celebrate is with parties!**

Share

- Tell kids about the last party *you* went to and what you liked about it.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about the last party *they* went to and what they liked about it.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group what they talked about with their partners.

Summarize

Open a Bible to 2 Samuel 6, and say: **Parties are a fun way to celebrate. Sometimes church doesn’t seem like much of a party...but it is! We’re here to celebrate God because God is praiseworthy. Let’s see how David celebrated God in the Bible. The Bible is a really special book, unlike any other book. In it, God tells us reasons to celebrate him. God is here right now, ready to talk to you! Let’s praise him.**

Pray, telling God he is praiseworthy.



OBJECT LESSON

Arms Liftoff!

[10 min]

Supplies

- wall
- door frame (optional)

Press Arms Against a Wall

Say: **Did you know your muscles can move without your brain's permission? Scientists call it the *Kohnstamm phenomenon*, and it happens when you press your muscles against something for a while and then let go. Let's test this effect and see if our arms automatically rise. We'll try different methods and determine which one works the best.**

- Have kids form pairs and determine who will be Partner 1 and Partner 2.
- Have Partner 1 press the back of his or her arm against a wall while Partner 2 counts to 60. Kids will be pushing out with their arms as if trying to move the wall.
- After 60 seconds, have Partner 1 step away from the wall, relax his or her arm, and observe what happens. Kids should notice that arms involuntarily lift away from sides and into the air like they're floating.
- Have partners switch roles and repeat the experiment.



Hold Arms at Sides

Say: **Let's try another way. This time, you won't need a wall, just your partner!**

- Have Partner 2 stand behind Partner 1.
- Have Partner 2 firmly hold Partner 1's arms above the elbow against his or her sides while Partner 1 presses his or her arms against Partner 2's hands, as if trying to push Partner 2's hands out.
- Have partners count to 60 together; then Partner 2 should let go and observe Partner 1's arms. Again, they should involuntarily lift up.
- Have pairs switch roles and repeat the experiment.



Press Hands Against Door Frame (Optional)

- Have kids take turns standing in a doorway.
- Have kids press the backs of their hands against the door frame while everyone counts to 30.
- Have the kids step out of the doorway, and have the group observe their friends' arms.
- Repeat, giving each child a turn.



Talk About It

Ask: • **Which method was most effective?**

Say: **In this experiment, your muscles acted before your brain could tell them not to. Sometimes when we're praising God around other people, our hearts tell us to raise our hands or clap to the music. But then our brains might kick in and cause us to wonder what others think of us and our praise. We might feel embarrassed, so we don't allow our bodies to praise God.**

Ask: • **When a toddler raises her arms to be picked up, what does that communicate? How is that like raising your arms to worship?**

• **When you raise your hand in school, what does that communicate? How is that like raising your arms to worship?**

• **When someone waves his hands at a sports game, what does that communicate? How is that like raising your arms to worship?**

Say: Raising our arms can tell God how much we need his comfort and help. It can show that we really know and believe the words we're singing. And we can raise our hands and celebrate God's awesome victory and power in our lives. God is praiseworthy. It's natural for our hearts and hands to respond and celebrate him!



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: **Our Bible story today involves a special treasure box called the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark of the Covenant was a box that held the Ten Commandments, Aaron's staff, and some food called *manna*. Those were special 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 was a visible reminder of God's presence for the Israelites. 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 holy 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. Some other people had it, but the Israelites went to get it back. After some mishaps 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 focus on God. Sometimes we get distracted and focus on ourselves instead.**

Distribute several name tags to each child. Say: **Think about things that are distracting you today, right now. 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 do the same.

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 do the same.

Say: **Maybe you're distracted by your to-do list.** Write some things from your to-do list on a name tag, and stick it to your clothing. Then allow time for kids to do the same.

Say: **Maybe you're hungry or tired. Write down an emotion 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. Write down that person's name.** 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 to-do lists 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. This could feel very awkward for preteens, who are beginning to feel self-conscious. Encourage them to keep going—you'll debrief their emotions below.

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 write 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.



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Freeze Praise

Supplies

- various party noisemakers such as kazoos, blow horns, whistles, flutes, hand clappers, ratchet twirlers, bells, and rattles (1 per child)
- upbeat praise music
- music player

Tip

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

Play a Praise Party Game

Say: **Today's Bible story showed us how David and his people praised God as they moved the Ark. They sang and danced, made joyful shouts, and did it all even if others might think they were being foolish.**

Let's celebrate God like David did, but we'll play a fun freeze game as part of our celebration.

- Give a noisemaker to each child.
- When the music plays, everyone will add to the music with his or her noisemaker. Kids can also sing if they know the words to the song.
- Encourage everyone to move all around the room, leaping and dancing with the music.
- Kids can also shout things such as "Thank you, God!" "We love you, God!" and "You are awesome, God!" as they celebrate.
- You'll turn the music off at random times, and when the music stops, everyone must freeze in place, trying not to move at all even if that means holding a difficult position.
- When kids are frozen, move around the room and inspect how still everyone is. Be silly about it to try to get kids to giggle and move.
- When you start the music again, everyone will start moving and celebrating again.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you like or not like about our praise party for God?**

• **Why would you or wouldn't you praise God like that somewhere out in public, like at the grocery store or walking down your street?**

Say: **We might feel a little awkward when we're doing something that draws a lot of attention, but David and his people weren't worried about what others were thinking when they were praising God. Their singing, dancing, and praise was for God, not other people. God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him.**



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.

Tip

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

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.**



Celebrations

Supplies

- streamers*
- instruments*

Celebrate

- Have kids repeat their celebrations from Core Bible Discovery.
- Kids can sing, dance, throw streamers, cheer, play instruments, or celebrate any other way.
- As kids celebrate, encourage them to call out words of praise to God.

Wrap Up

Pray: **God, thank you that you're praiseworthy. Help us celebrate you every day. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.



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 (various colors)
- 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 have kids follow 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 their confetti by pulling the pencil back and releasing.
- 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.

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