

To Study: 2 Samuel 6:1-12, Numbers 4:6 and 15, 1 Chronicles 15:1-29, 16:1-43.

To Read in class: 2 Samuel 6:1-12, 1 Chronicles 15:11-15.

Memory Texts:

Younger: Psalm 93:5 "Holiness becometh thine house, O LORD, for ever."

Older: Psalm 27:4 "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."

OBJECTIVES: To teach that:

1. It is important to be reverent and respectful towards God.
2. Good intentions are not enough when responding to God’s commandments.
3. The individual that obeys God will know His will and will not walk in darkness.
4. Those who are truly reverent toward God will always have His blessing.
5. The greater our knowledge, the greater our responsibility toward God.

SCENE 1. Blank. VISUAL AIDS. Figures of the tabernacle, the ark, and the high priest to present a review of their meaning. Add signs that say “The Holiness of the Ark” and some of the qualities that characterized the tabernacle, such as “A costly structure,” “Dwelling Place of God”, with a “Separate Most Holy Place and Access permitted only once a year to the high priest”.

DEVELOPMENT:

Note: During the time the Israelites were taking possession of the land of Canaan, the ark remained in the tabernacle in Gilgal. Later it was taken to Shiloh and was there during the time of Eli, some three or four hundred years later (Jeremiah 7:12). From Shiloh it was taken to the battlefield, where the Philistines captured it (1 Samuel 4:3-11). It remained with them for seven months before being returned (1 Samuel 5:7-8).

- God had commanded that the “ark of the covenant” be left permanently in the Most Holy Place, seen only by the High Priest once a year.
- When Moses, Aaron and Joshua were alive, the ark was treated with reverence.
- Between the death of Joshua and the time of Eli, little is known about how much care the Israelites had for the tabernacle, but during this period God looked after the ark.
- Eli did not exercise discipline on his sons Hophni and Phineas, and their behaviour was reprehensible.
- Samuel was still serving in the tabernacle at this time.
- These two priests, sons of Eli, were in charge of the ark when it fell into the hands of the Philistines.
- When it was returned to Israel, the people of Beth-shemesh looked inside the ark, and many died for intruding into what was sacred and separated to God.
- God had warned the people that death could result if the **ark were not transported according to His orders** (Numbers 4:15).
- When it was left at Kirjath-jearim (1 Samuel 7:1-2), no one died, for they kept the ark in a way that was pleasing to God.

Cns. The ark is a type of Christ in whose presence we must be reverent.

Apl. Stress to the students what it means to have respect and reverence in the presence of God. To call God by any other name than the correct one, God the Father, is not right.

Exm. To use slang or worldly expressions for God such as “the man upstairs” or “the boss” dishonours God. God should be glorified in the names we use to refer to Him.

SCENE 2. (E-12) VISUAL AIDS. On a road near the threshing floor of Nachon, figures of groups of people with the ark on a cart pulled by oxen, and the figure of Uzzah lying dead beside it.

DEVELOPMENT:

- Almost 100 years after the Philistines returned the ark, David had it taken out of the house of Abinadab where it had been since its return.
- An occasion of great rejoicing was soon changed into sadness, for in spite of David’s good intentions, he committed an error.
- Instead of looking into the Scriptures to learn the right way to transport the ark, David followed the most recent example, that of the Philistines, of putting it on a cart.
- His good intentions were seen in that it was a new cart.

Apl. Good intentions are not good enough when they go against what God commands.

- While the Israelites were moving the ark, something occurred that had not happened when the Philistines used a cart pulled by animals: the oxen stumbled.
- Seeing the animals stumble, Uzzah put forth his hand to steady the ark of God and the anger of the Lord flared against him (2 Samuel 6:6-7).
- God struck Uzzah dead right there on account of his imprudent act.

Cmt. What the Philistines could do without punishment was not permitted to the people of God. They had greater knowledge and thus had greater responsibility.

- When David saw what happened, he was afraid to continue with the ark and take it to his city. For this reason he ordered that it be taken into the house of Obed-Edom, a Levite.
- Obed-Edom welcomed it and God blessed his house and all that he had, for he knew how to give proper reverence to this sacred object.

Cns. God always honours those that honour Him and obeys His word, showing respect towards Him (1 Samuel 2:30).

Cmt. God’s blessing on Obed-Edom’s house shows that it is worthwhile to fear God and that which represents Him in the nation.

SCENE 3. (F-5) VISUAL AIDS. Entrance of the city of David. Figures of groups of people together with David celebrating the arrival of the ark being carried on the shoulders of the priests.

DEVELOPMENT:

- When he consulted God and looked into the Law of Moses, David came to realize what his mistake had been.
- David had prepared a special place for the ark.

Sug. Use this point to emphasize to the students the need to give to the Lord Jesus the place that He deserves in their lives.

- David commanded the Levites to consecrate themselves in order to bring up the ark of the Lord. Consecration required a cleansing of the body on the outside and of the soul on the inside.
- They brought up the ark on their shoulders, as Moses had commanded in accordance with the will of God.
- There was much singing and rejoicing as the ark arrived in Jerusalem.

Cns. Doing God’s will creates joy in the heart of the person who is honouring Him.

SCENE 4. Blank. VISUAL AIDS. Figures of persons obeying the will of God and of others who are not. Also, the figure of a youth walking in darkness, and a figure of another youth walking without difficulty with a flashlight in his hand.

DEVELOPMENT:

Evidences seen in those who do not recognize the holiness of God:

- 1) Little reverence for God.
- 2) Boredom when the Word of God is read.
- 3) Arguing and fighting instead of paying attention to a Bible topic.
- 4) One who spoils the class by distracting other pupils and (see #5)
- 5) One who does not know what is God’s will for his life, walks in darkness and stumbles.

In those that respect what the Word of God says, the evidence is seen in that:

- 1) They seek God in prayer.
- 2) They respond to the will and direction of God and
- 3) They walk in the light, without stumbling.

Cns. The Bible stresses the importance of obeying the things that are written in it, for they “are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name” (John 20:30-31).