

David Worships God

(1 Chronicles 10:6 – 15:2-3)

Introduction

[Teacher, an optional way to introduce this lesson is to decorate the room for a celebration – blow up balloons and hang streamers, etc.] How do you look when you are happy or excited? What are some reasons that you feel joyful or happy? (Birthday parties, Christmas celebrations, pet, friends, etc.) What do you know about God that makes you feel joyful or happy?

Today we are going to find out why King David was joyful and wanted to celebrate.

Opening Prayer

Father, we love You. You are worthy of our praise. Teach us this morning what a thrill it is to worship You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse

I will celebrate before the Lord. (2 Samuel 6:21 NKJ)

Lesson

Last week we learned that David spent years running from Saul. He lived in caves and out in the forest, as he tried to escape Saul's attempts to kill him. One day, during an attack from the Philistines, both Saul and his son, Jonathan, were killed.

1 Chronicles 10:6

So Saul and his three sons died there together, bringing his dynasty to an end.

It was at this time that David became the king of Israel.

1 Chronicles 11:1-3 [Teacher, read...]

Then all Israel gathered before David at Hebron and told him, "We are your own flesh and blood. In the past, even when Saul was king, you were the one who really led the forces of Israel. And the LORD your God told you, 'You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be the leader of my people Israel.'" So there at Hebron, David made a covenant before the LORD with all the elders of Israel. And they anointed him king of Israel, just as the LORD had promised through Samuel.

Many years before David became king, the Philistines had captured the Ark of the Covenant in a battle.

What do you think of when I say the word "ark"? (Noah's ark.) The Ark of the Covenant is a different kind of ark. It was a beautiful wooden box covered with real gold and in it were some very special things: The Ten Commandments, Aaron's rod, and a jar of manna.



These were precious to the children of Israel and now that David was king, he wanted to bring the ark to Jerusalem.

1 Chronicles 13:1-3

David consulted with all his officials, including the generals and captains of his army. Then he addressed the entire assembly of Israel as follows: "If you approve and if it is the will of the LORD our God, let us send messages to all the Israelites throughout the land, including the priests and Levites in their towns and pasturelands. Let us invite them to come and join us. It is time to bring back the Ark of our God, for we neglected it during the reign of Saul."

What a special day this was for David! He was bringing the ark to Jerusalem so that all the people there could worship God.

1 Chronicles 13:8

David and all Israel were celebrating before God with all their might, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, cymbals, and trumpets.

King David led the big crowd of people. He sang and danced to show his joy that God was really with His people! All along the way, people stood by the road, singing and shouting and playing music to show their love for God. They joyfully played cymbals, harps and trumpets. They wanted God to know how happy they were to have the ark in Jerusalem.

God wants us to follow David's example and worship God with joy.

Worship is not just sitting and listening to a pastor or Sunday school teacher talk about God. It is thinking about God yourself. Worship is taking time to appreciate who God is, what He has done, and what He is doing. It is responding to Him with reverence, praise, and joy. Showing Him how much you love Him.

The first step to true worship: being grateful for what Jesus did for us

The first way we really show God that we appreciate Him is to thank Him for paying for our sins by dying on the cross. When you truly

understand that when Jesus was nailed to the cross, He took the punishment that you and I deserve for all the naughty things we do, we can begin to understand how great and good God truly is. Until that happens, true worship cannot begin. True worship begins when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Worship God with others

Just going to church or Sunday school does not mean you are worshiping. You worship by thinking about God as you sing, pray, and learn His Word. Focus on God and join others in honoring Him.

Worship God when you're alone

You can worship God anytime, anywhere. Learn to go through each day thinking about God and thanking Him for who He is and what He does. As the sun shine (or rain) strikes your window in the morning, thank God for giving you a fresh new day. Hum a praise song as you get dressed. Kneel by your bed and worship God by giving yourself to Him to serve Him during the day. And remember, you are surrounded by His wonders. Enjoy the warm water as you wash your face. Notice colors and fabrics and scents. Think about the banana or egg you're having for breakfast. Isn't God's creation amazing? As you leave for school, look at God's beautiful sky and trees and flowers and animals. Feel your heart pumping; watch your fingers work. Just think! The marvelous God who made you and all things goes through your day with you. Tell Him how glad you are for His love and for the promise of His continual care. Enjoy His presence from the time you wake until you whisper your good-night prayer.

Use God's Word to help you worship

Let God's Word help you to focus on Him and His works. The Psalms and many other Scriptures are praise words spoken to God (1 Chronicles 16:34; Psalm 95; 100) and you can take some passages, like Psalm 23, and pray them back to God in worship. "Thank You, God, for being my Shepherd, for promising to keep me from want..."

Worship God in prayer

Another part of worship is talking to God and telling Him how wonderful He is.

Singing is a way to worship.

Use songs to help you tell God that you love Him and honor Him.

Make giving an act of worship.

We can worship by giving. We can give God our whole selves – our time, our money, our talents, our bodies, our minds, and our hearts. You and I give time to God by doing kind things for others. We give Him money by putting it in the offering at church to help people in need and support missionaries. How can you give God your talents? Your body? Your mind? Your heart? Malachi 3:10 tells of the special ways God rewards giving.

Worship is exciting! Those who make worship a natural part of their daily lives discover the secret of true and lasting joy. (Psalm 91:1, 2; Isaiah 26:3).

What are some reasons that we should worship God? What are some ways you can think of to show God how much you love Him?
[Teacher, let the children respond.]

We can show that we are glad for God's love when we sing and pray and talk with other people about God. Another way to worship God is to thank Him for the many things He has done for us. Let's do that together right now...

Closing Prayer

[Teacher, lead the children in prayer, inviting volunteers to express love or thanks to God.]

Learning Activities**Craft Corner*****Prayer Poems***

King David wrote many songs and poems as prayers to God. These songs and poems are called psalms. We can read them in our Bibles. (See Psalm 91:1, 2; Isaiah 26:3). Let's write a prayer poem of our own.

[Teacher, prepare a piece of construction paper for each child with the heading, "I thank God for..." written at the top. Have children write or dictate words to complete the sentence on their papers, telling what they thank God for. Then, allow the children to draw pictures to illustrate their papers.

If children have trouble getting started, ask them, "What are some things God has done for you that makes you happy?" Or, prompt them with some of the review questions from the Game Center.]

Tambourines

Materials: two paper plates for each child, two jingle bells, yarn, hole punch, scissors, markers.

Preparation: For each child, cut a length of yarn twice the circumference of a paper plate. Wrap one end of each length of yarn with tape to make lacing easier.

Procedure:

1. Give two plates and a piece of yarn to each child. To make tambourines, each child lays one plate right side up and then puts the other plate right side down on the first plate. (Note: you can put a few beans between the plates.) Help children punch holes 1 inch apart around the edge of their plates and lace the yarn

through the holes. (Note: if you pre-punch holes before class, make sure the holes line up on each plate.) As children work, ask the following questions:

- What instruments do you like to hear?
 - What kinds of instruments did the people play in our lesson today? (Harps, Cymbals, Trumpets.)
 - What instruments have you heard played when people are singing praise songs to God?
2. Tie ends of yarn together, leaving tails. Children thread a jingle bell onto each yarn tail and knot yarn to hold the bell.
 3. Allow children to decorate their tambourines with markers, glitter glue, etc.
 4. Lead children in playing tambourines as they worship God.

Game Center

Praise the Lord!

What do kids your age do if they are really excited? [Teacher, help the children discover the following actions and as they do, write them on the board: clap, jump, click heels, do high fives, twirl, cheer, skip, leap, etc.] God loves it when we show Him we love Him with our actions.

Game: Have children stand in a circle. Have the first child do something to show excitement. Second child repeats that action and does another action. The third child must repeat the first two actions and does another one. And, so forth. For example, the first child claps, the second child claps and jumps, the third child claps, jumps, and twirls around and so forth around the circle.

Worship Activity

Select an upbeat worship song that celebrates God, such as “How Majestic Is Your Name” or “What a Mighty God we Serve.” Bring in a cassette or CD player and a copy of the song.

Form three groups: The Motion Makers, the Crazy Clappers, and the Cheerleaders. Explain that you’re going to play a song, and each group will come up with a way to celebrate along with the music. The Motion Makers will make up unique actions, the Crazy Clappers will create exciting clapping rhythms, and the Cheerleaders will come up with a list of things they can celebrate such as God’s goodness, power, creation, or love.

Once kids understand their roles, play the song. Then allow about five minutes for groups to come up with their celebration elements. Play the song again, and have the Motion Makers teach their motions, the Crazy Clappers lead their clapping rhythms, and the Cheerleaders shout out their reasons to celebrate.

Or, use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. What are some ways David and the Israelites showed joy as they worshiped God? (Sang songs, danced, played instruments, gave gifts to God, ate special food and prayed.)
2. Why do we celebrate and praise God? (Because He loves us. Because He hears our prayers. Because He helps us. Because He is good and powerful, full of kindness.)
3. What are some ways people can worship God? (Sing songs. Pray. Give money. Play musical instruments.)
4. What are some reasons we have for praising and thanking God? What can you thank God for today?
5. When is a time you might sing a song to praise God?

6. What is something you want to thank God for?
7. How did David and the people celebrate the ark's arrival?
8. What are some ways people celebrate and praise God today?
9. Why do we want to celebrate and praise God with joy? (Because He made the world. He made us. He gave us friends.)

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