

Let every living thing praise the LORD! Praise the LORD! (Psalm 150:6)

## David Dances – 2 Samuel 6:12-19

### Prepare to Wonder

#### Faith Word: PRAISE

Upon first reading, the sixth chapter of 2 Samuel appears to be a joyous celebration of God, with dancing and instruments and food! This is true, but there is more significance to this Scripture passage than simply an encouragement to celebrate God with dancing.

The chapter centers around the movement of the sacred chest of God—the chest that is called by the name of the Lord of heavenly forces, who sits enthroned on the winged creatures. Sometimes referred to as the ark of the covenant, the chest contained the stone tablets given to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Israelites viewed the chest as a symbol of God’s presence. The chest had not been lost, but it had been neglected. Not any more—the chest was now being transported to Jerusalem.

King David was personally involved with the movement of the sacred chest. He did not simply order some of his men to transport the chest, which he presumably could have, but rather was present and a part of the procession as the chest was moved. It could be said, and it was probably true, that David participated in the ceremony because of an intense, personal connection and relationship to God.

But it was also true that the movement of the chest to Jerusalem was a smart and savvy political move on David’s part. Bringing the chest to Jerusalem served to identify the city as a religious center in addition to being the royal capital. This brought the political and religious centers together in one place. Doing so publicly proclaimed that David ruled in alliance with God. Even considering all that, there is joyful dancing, instrument playing and eating! God is worthy of celebration! Enjoy celebrating God with your children this week.

#### Spiritual Practice for Adults

Find some time to praise God through dancing! Put on your favorite song and cut loose.

# Come Together

## Come Together

**Supplies:** *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, dancer*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4). Place the dancer inside the Wonder Box.*

- Point to the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4), and invite the children to wonder about what the word *praise* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

**SAY:** This month we will hear stories about praising God. This week we will hear about King David and how he praised God through dancing.

- In this curriculum, we recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “David Dances” (pp. 96–97) from the storybook.

**PRAY:** Dear God, we are so grateful for you and all of our blessings. Amen.

## David Dances – Preschool

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids’ Book, crayons*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy “David Dances” (Reproducible 5A) for each child.*

- Invite the preschoolers to use crayons to color the picture.

**SAY:** King David praised God by dancing!

**ASK:** How do you praise God?

## Match the Dancers – Younger Elementary

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids’ Book, crayons*

**Prepare:** *Photocopy “Match the Dancers” (Reproducible 5B) for each child.*

- Hand out a copy of “Match the Dancers” to each child.

**SAY:** King David led the parade of musicians and Jewish priests. While King David led the parade, he danced in praise. There are lots of ways to dance in praise.

- Invite the kids to draw a line to match the dancers.

## Ark of the Covenant – Older Elementary

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, markers or crayons*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Ark of the Covenant" (Reproducible 5C) for each child.*

- Hand out a copy of "Ark of the Covenant" to each child.

**SAY:** King David danced while he led the parade of musicians and Jewish priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant.

- Invite three kids to each read a section of the page to the class.
- Encourage the kids to color the picture of the ark of the covenant.

## Dance – All Ages

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Dance" (Reproducible 5D) for each child.*

- Hand out copies of "Dance" (Reproducible 5D) to each child.

**SAY:** King David led the parade of musicians and Jewish priests. While King David led the parade, he danced in praise. There are lots of ways to dance in praise. Let's try a few ways!

- Invite the kids to mirror you as you lead them through the four dance moves.

**ASK:** What is your favorite dance move?

- Invite the kids who would like to share a favorite dance move to show the class.

**SAY:** King David praised God through dancing.

**ASK:** What is your favorite way to praise God?

## Wonder Time

### Interactive Bible Story

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "David Dances" (Reproducible 5F) for each child.*

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story one section at a time.

**WONDER:** Why do you think David chose to dance instead of playing an instrument with the other people in the parade?

## Share a Story

*Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player*

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 5 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors*

*Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Wonder Story Mat for Unit 2 (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).  
Cut out the Bible story figures (Class Pack—p. 19).*

- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat.
- Show the children the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

**SAY:** Today's faith word is *praise*. Praise is one of the many ways we thank God.

- Show the children this week's figure—a ballet dancer.

**WONDER** together:

- How do you think the people felt when they saw the king dancing?
  - What are you thankful for?
  - What is your favorite way to praise God?
- Place the figure on the Wonder Story Mat.
  - Open the Wonder Box to reveal the dancer.

**WONDER:** Why do you think a dancer is in the Wonder Box this week?

## Experience Wonder

### Dancing Musical Chairs

*Supplies: one chair for each child, kids' music, a way to play the music*

- Prepare Ahead: Make a circle using the chairs.

**SAY:** King David danced in the big parade! What dance moves do you think he did?

- Invite the kids to do dance moves like King David.

**SAY:** We're going to play musical chairs, but instead of walking around our circle of chairs, we will dance around our circle!

- Turn on the music and invite the kids to dance around the circle of chairs.
- After about ten seconds, stop the music and encourage the kids to sit in a chair.

- Remove one chair and begin again.
- Continue to play until one person is left.
- As you play, encourage the kids who aren't in play anymore to dance during the music.
- Play until everyone is ready to move on.

## Examine the Bible Verse

**SAY:** Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Psalm 150:6. Find it in your Bibles.

**ASK:** Is Psalms in the Old or New Testament? (*Old*) Where is the Book of Psalms located in the Old Testament? (*nineteenth book, almost exactly in the center of the Bible*) In what chapter of Psalms is our verse located? (*150*) What is the verse number? (*6*)

**SAY:** Our Bible verse is all about praising God!

**ASK:** What's your favorite way to praise God?

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).  
Read it together.

## Peaceful Place

**Supplies:** *Leader Guide—p. 114, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, book: The Last Stop on Market Street, by Matt de la Pena; music; paper; crayons or markers*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word coloring sheet (Leader Guide—p. 114) for each child.*

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Invite the children to explore music and dancing.
- Have each child color the Faith Word coloring sheet.

**Tip:** *All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.*

# Go in Peace

## Spiritual Practice – Exploring Praise Through Worship

**SAY:** A spiritual practice is something we do to help us be present with God. A spiritual practice can be anything because you can be with God any time, anywhere, and any way! This month we are going to praise God through gratitude.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice:
  - **SAY:** We're going to think about five things we're grateful for. You'll close your eyes and I will say a place. You will think of something you are thankful for at that place.
  - **SAY:** Get comfortable and close your eyes.
  - **SAY:** At home, I am grateful for...
  - **SAY:** At school, I am grateful for...
  - **SAY:** In nature, I am grateful for...
  - **SAY:** At church, I am grateful for...
  - **SAY:** At the park, I am grateful for...

**SAY:** We can praise God for all of the things we are grateful for.

**ASK:** Would any of you like to share what you are grateful for?

**PRAY:** Repeat after me: "God, thank you for our many blessings. Help us always be ready to praise you. Amen."

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child on the hand as you say this blessing: "May you feel God's love all around you every day."

## Family Spiritual Practice

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids' Book; Leader Guide—pp. 111, 112*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy "Celebration Chart" (p. 111) and "Family Letter" (p. 112) for each child.*

**SAY:** Let's take a look at your Take-Home Pages (*Reproducibles 5F–5G*). Ask your family to read the Bible story and participate in this week's spiritual devotion with you. There's an extra activity for you to do sometime this week.

- Send home a copy of the Take-Home Pages, a copy of the Family Letter, and a copy of the Celebration Chart with each child.

# Supplemental Activities

---

## Preschoolers – Freeze Dance

*Supplies: music, a way to play the music*

**SAY:** King David led the parade of musicians and Jewish priests. While King David led the parade, he danced in praise. There are lots of ways to dance in praise.

**SAY:** Let's dance in praise too! When the music is on, do your best praise dances. When the music stops, you must freeze in your best dancer pose!

- Turn on the music and invite the kids to dance in praise.
- Turn off the music and invite the kids to freeze in their best dancer poses.
- Continue playing until the group is ready to move on.

## Early Elementary – Dancing Follow the Leader

*Supplies: music, a way to play the music*

**SAY:** King David led the parade of musicians and Jewish priests. While King David led the parade, he danced in praise. There are lots of ways to dance in praise.

**SAY:** We're going to take turns leading the group like David led the parade. Whoever is the leader will do a dance move and we will do it too!

- Turn on some music.
- Do a dance move and invite the kids to mirror it.
- Choose a child to lead the dancing next.
- After a few minutes, choose another child to lead the dancing.
- Continue in this way until everyone has had an opportunity to lead the dancing.

## Older Elementary – Act It Out

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Act It Out" (Reproducible 5E) for each child.*

**SAY:** We're going to act out today's story for the younger kids.

- Give each child a copy of the script (Reproducible 5E).
- Invite the kids to choose parts.
- Encourage them to practice the skit a couple of times through until they feel comfortable.
- Perform the skit for the younger groups.

## Intergenerational Activity – Ark of the Covenant Craft

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Ark of the Covenant" (Reproducible 5C) for each participant.*

**SAY:** King David danced while he led the parade of musicians and Jewish priests who were carrying the ark of the covenant. The ark of the covenant represented God's presence with the Jewish people. King David wanted to bring it to the city of Jerusalem where he lived.

**ASK:** What sorts of things remind us of God's presence with us today?

**SAY:** We're going to break into groups of four and make our own ark of the covenants out of building bricks. Bonus points for building one of the things that remind you of God's presence today too!

- Divide the participants into groups of four.
- Invite the participants to build the ark of the covenant out of building bricks.
- Encourage groups to show their creations to the whole group.