

Bible background

2 Samuel 6:12-19; 1 Chronicles 15; 16:1-3

Aim of lesson

- (a) To see how David wanted God to be at the centre of his life.
- (b) To teach respect for the Bible.

Preparation required

You will need a large cardboard box, two poles or brooms and some tape from which to make a model of the ark which should be large enough to put a Bible inside. If you use the alternative activity, you will need backing paper for a frieze.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Tell how David, although he was the king of Israel, knew that God was really in charge. David knew God was his king, and he wanted God to be with him. Because of this, he brought up the ark to his city, Jerusalem. The ark was like a throne for our invisible God, and it had been forgotten about for many years. Tell how it contained parts of the Bible of David's day and was holy, only to be touched by priests who were God's special servants.
2. Make a model ark out of the box taped on to the poles.
3. Act out this incident with the ark being carried by four priests. David included many musicians in the procession so any paper trumpets, biscuit tin drums or tambourines would make the procession very effective.
4. Use the song 'David Danced' and, if you have room to dance, the children could skip around whilst they sing. Those carrying the ark should walk carefully.
5. Ask the children to colour and complete the activity sheet (a).
6. If model making or acting is not suitable for your class you may prefer to use activity (b) to make a large frieze. Use only one ark, but the figures from all the sheets could be included to form the procession going up to Jerusalem.

Alternative activities

1. Make trumpets from cardboard tubes or cones of paper then decorate them.
2. Make shakers by putting dried peas or lentils into margarine or ice-cream tubs and sealing the lids firmly with tape.
3. Make up some dances! If you are short of space, just use your arms and hands in different ways, stamp your feet, rock from side to side, backwards and forwards etc.

Relevance to the children's lives

We need to ask God to be at the centre of our lives, and to be with us in all we do. You could also bring out that we should have the same sort of love and respect for the Bible that David had for the ark and the part of the Bible that was in it. Teach why the Bible is so precious to us. It is God's message to us.

Prayer

Ask what David may have prayed about that night. Lead into the children's prayers by encouraging them to say that they are glad that God is with us because... or that they are glad God has given us his word, the Bible, so that we can learn about him.

Verse

'Praise him with tambourine and dancing.' Psalm 150:4.

Song

David Danced (Tune: Sur Le Pont d'Avignon)



- v.1 David danced before the ark
He was happy, he was happy,
David danced before the ark
Going to Jerusalem.
- v.2 David danced before the ark
He was happy, he was happy,
David danced before the ark
He knew God would be with him.
- v.3 We can dance like David did
We are happy, we are happy
We can dance like David did
God will be with us as well.

Music: Traditional.