

LESSON 2

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

UNIT I. GOD'S PEOPLE OFFER PRAISE CELEBRATING WITH ENTHUSIASM

DEVOTIONAL READING: Ecclesiastes 3:1-9

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 6

PRINT PASSAGE: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-19

KEY VERSE

David and all the house of Israel played before the Lord on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals. (2 Samuel 6:5, KJV)

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David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals. (2 Samuel 6:5, NIV)

LESSON AIMS

As a result of experiencing this lesson, the participants should be able to do these things:

- Explore David's joy and Michal's contempt for him.
- Appreciate many ways to celebrate God's presence.
- Plan celebrations that honor God through praise and worship.

KEY TERMS

Ark (verse 4)—Hebrew: *Aron* (aw-rone'): ark; chest.

Blessed (verse 18)—Hebrew: *barak* (baw-rak'): kneeled down; blessed.

Danced (verse 14)—Hebrew: *karar* (kaw-rar'): danced; celebrated; "was dancing" (NIV).

Gathered (verse 1)—Hebrew: *kanas* (kaw-nas'): collected; assembled; "brought together" (NIV).

God (verse 3)—Hebrew: *elohim* (el-o-heem'): God; great; mighty.

Played (verse 5)—Hebrew: *nagan* (naw-gan'): touched or played a stringed instrument; "were celebrating" (NIV).

PREPARING THE LESSON

- Refer to the *Townsend Press SS Commentary Teacher's Edition* for an additional lesson plan—with word studies, insights on teaching adults, learner matrices, etc.
- Review last week's student assignments ("Your Life" and Your World!").
- Thoroughly review your student book for your adult or young adult class.

WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

Celebrations can be diverse in form and include various actions. How do we celebrate great events in our lives? King David expressed his joy and celebration of God by leading the people of Jerusalem in music and dance.

THE LESSON IN FOCUS

People have different tastes when it comes to artistic expression. Personal differences or preferences are evident in worship styles and notions of what constitutes proper public behavior. Differences originate with individual experiences and opinions as well as one's cultural, social, or family background. Such differences impact attitudes and opinions concerning private and public conduct in all aspects of life. People are quick to judge others' actions, especially those that fall

beyond the sphere of their own comfort zones and familiarity, when, in fact, the actions they find objectionable or inappropriate are simply matters of personal preference rather than matters of right and wrong. The inherent worth or rightness of a person cannot be determined in a single moment based on a single action, expression, or opinion that differs from what someone else might have chosen or preferred. Strongly opinionated stances on minor and sometimes inconsequential differences can threaten or ruin close relationships.

THE LESSON IN CONTEXT

The ark of the covenant represented the presence of Yahweh. The Law of Moses outlined clear and specific directions for the transportation and handling of the sacred ark (see Exodus 25:12-14). The decision to mishandle the ark as common cargo and to ignore the prescribed procedure for its transportation led to divine judgment (see 2 Samuel 6:3, 6-7; 1 Chronicles 13:5-13), resulting in the death of Abinadab's son Uzzah. In the second attempt to bring the ark to Jerusalem, David offered sacrifices (see 2 Samuel 6:13) and wore a linen ephod, a garment usually associated with the priesthood (verse 14; see Exodus 20:12; 1 Samuel 2:18; 22:18). A variety of musical instruments and dances were included in the sacred celebration (see 1 Chronicles 25:1-8; Psalms 149-150). While the relationship between David and his wife, Michal, hit a critical crossroad in this text, their marriage was filled with intrigue from the beginning. Saul offered Michal to David as part of a plot to have him die in battle (see 1 Samuel 18:20-25); Michal had to intervene to keep David from being murdered by her father (see 19:11-17); and at the height of the conflict between David and Saul, Saul gave Michal to another man (see 25:44). It is little wonder that the incident in our text included David's angry assertion to Michal that God had chosen him to replace her father on the throne (see 2 Samuel 6:21).

The Baale-judah of verse 2 is the same as Kiriath-jearim of the parallel account in 1 Chronicles 13 (see verse 6 there). Being less than ten miles east of Jerusalem, a trip there and back could be accomplished by David and his entourage in one day of daylight.

OPENING INQUIRY (Choose from the questions below.)

1. David was overjoyed about returning the symbol of God's presence to Jerusalem. What spiritual activities do you find exciting?
2. In your experience, what contributes to the excitement of participating in the event or activity?
3. Describe an experience of being shut down by someone who doesn't share your enthusiasm for something.

INSIGHTS

As Christians, we celebrate our devotion to God with a variety of musical styles and forms of worship. The styles vary across race, ethnicity, and even denominations. We want our worship to display the personal and passionate reverence for God that He deserves as we experience and share deep emotions in worship.

EXPLORATION

Every believer deserves the freedom to experience God's presence within our worship without teasing, judgment, or criticism. It is possible to experience unity and oneness in worship regardless of differences in worship style or expression.

ADDITIONAL EXPOSITORY INSIGHTS FOR THE TEACHER

COMMENTARY ON 2 SAMUEL 6:1-5

KJV

AGAIN, DAVID *gathered* together all the chosen men of Israel, thirty thousand.

2 And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

3 And they set the ark of *God* upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the *ark* of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

5 And David and all the house of Israel *played* before the LORD on all manner of instruments made of fir wood, even on harps, and on psalteries, and on timbrels, and on cornets, and on cymbals.

NIV

DAVID AGAIN *brought together* all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand.

2 He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark. **3** They set the ark of *God* on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart

4 with the *ark* of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it.

5 David and all Israel *were celebrating* with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

David gathered chosen men from Israel (verse 1) in preparation for retrieving the ark of God (another name for the ark of the covenant). The word ark simply means a “box” or “chest.” God instructed Moses to build it some 400 years before the time of David. It was completely covered in gold with a gold lid or top (known as the mercy seat) and two angels on each side, facing one another with outstretched wings. The ark represented the immediate presence of God containing the tablets of the Law, a jar of manna, and Aaron’s rod. The retrieval and return of the ark were important steps for King David as he sought to establish and authenticate Jerusalem as the central place of worship for all of Judah. Among these were men from Baale of Judah (see 1 Chronicles 13:6), an idiom which means “Lords of Judah.” These were the leading members of the land of Judah. The term has also been regarded as a place named Baale of Judah. According to the Scriptures, the ark and the holy vessels should have been carried only upon the shoulders of the Levites (see Exodus 25:12-15 and Numbers 3:31; 7:9)—and of the Levites, specifically of the house of Kohath (see Numbers 4:15). God will never take pleasure in human actions simply because they are done in a new way with upstanding people and good intentions—especially when they directly contradict one of His stated commands. The people were excited because the ark of God was coming home. On the one hand, it was a festive, royal occasion. At the same time, it was an occasion with deep spiritual significance that prompted the people to break out in authentic, elaborate praise. In a worship style similar to the African tradition, the celebration included festive dancing and the playing of music. Because the ark had been out of place for more than two decades, “all Israel were celebrating” (verse 5, NIV). Whenever God does great things for His people, they should all rejoice. The sounds and sights of corporate praise are marvelous and encouraging to the

soul. Whenever worshippers gather in the presence of the Lord, they should do so with enthusiasm, eager to give God the glory He deserves.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Please review the appropriate student book's related biblical exposition section.)

- **Adult Questions:**

What are ways that we can ensure that our entire congregation is engaged in worship service?
Is it possible?

- **Young Adult Question:**

David was king, but he had no problem praising God publicly, without reservation. Knowing how people are influenced by their leaders, how significant was David's decision to worship God as he did?

COMMENTARY ON 2 SAMUEL 6:14-19

KJV

14 And David *danced* before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.

15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he *blessed* the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the people, even among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine. So all the people departed every one to his house.

NIV

14 Wearing a linen ephod, David *was dancing* before the LORD with all his might,

15 while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

16 As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

17 They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.

18 After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he *blessed* the people in the name of the LORD Almighty.

19 Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

Verses 6-13 are not a part of this week's lesson. In those verses, the anger of the Lord kindled against the children of Israel—as Uzzah touched the ark in order to stabilize it and was struck dead.

(Israel's self-centered decision to forsake God's command, though true, is not the focus of today's lesson and will be addressed at a later time. Quickly reflect and bring the class back to the point that once the king realized the error, He worked to do things in proper order as prescribed by the Law.) For the celebration, King David wore an ephod. It may be assumed from the context that at some point, the king removed his royal garments and exposed the linen ephod (verse 14). Michal's open contempt for David may have stemmed from her view that David's public celebration dance and choice of apparel brought undignified disgrace to his royal status. David's act as king in leading the people in worship connected him with the people and allowed them to see that he was a king of and for the people. His passion for God was magnified as he offered prayers, blessed the people, and presented offerings (verse 18). His blessings signified his love for God and the people. David chose to solidify the signification of his love by offering not only words of prayer but also a gift of love to every woman and man—"a cake of bread, and a good piece of flesh, and a flagon of wine"; David ended the gathering by directing the people to return to their own homes and to enjoy the blessings they had received (verse 19). David's actions were an expression of deep, personal devotion and commitment to worshipping God with excitement and joy.

DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Please review the appropriate student book's related biblical exposition section.)

• **Adult Question:**

When was the last time your worship moved or inspired you to extend yourself in serving or giving to others? Share. If you have never been so moved, identify any apprehensions or thoughts that have kept you from participating in worship through personal sacrifice or service.

• **Young Adult Questions:**

- (1) Is public worship a personal thing between God and the individual, or are there times when people should meet certain rules or standards? Has anyone ever confronted you about your worship? Explain.
- (2) If God were giving out report cards, what grade would He give you for your worship and devotion to Him—not just on Sunday, but throughout the week? Whatever grade you imagine that God might give you, what are you willing to do to improve it?

LIFE APPLICATION

• **Refer to Adult Book**

(See student lesson's "Your Life" section.)

—Take a moment to consider your worship experiences at church. What can you do in your private or personal time that will impact and strengthen your corporate worship experiences? Consider developing and maintaining a routine of prayer and daily devotions.

(See student lesson's "Your World!" section.)

—Take a moment to consider the ministry activities in which you serve in the local church. How many of them have an impact outside of the church? What can you do to broaden your participation in activities that bless the lives of those outside the walls of the church?

• **Refer to Young Adult Book**

(See student lesson's "Your Life" section.)

—Sometimes, as in David's case, a person's commitment to God might put him or her at risk of being ridiculed, even by other believers. Consider your own spiritual life and how you might respond if ridiculed or rejected for your faith and expression of worship. At some point, you will have to decide who has your greatest loyalty and devotion—God or someone else.

(See student lesson's "Your World!" section.)

—Recent polls indicate that more than 200 million Americans identify themselves as Christians. Of that number, nearly 62 percent (roughly 125 million) are committed to regular or weekly church attendance, though the statistics for millennials is much lower. These

statistics may or may not surprise you. Church attendance and true worship are not necessarily the same thing. Imagine how different America would be if those 125 million were true worshippers like David.

NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

The lesson topic for Sunday, September 19, 2021, is "Celebrating Expectantly." The Devotional Reading text is James 5:13-18, the Background Scripture text is Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43, and the Printed Text is Mark 10:46-52.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, we bow with a desire for increased focus on worshipping You with joy and enthusiasm. Let every moment with You be fresh and beneficial as we grow to become better servants for Your glory. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS GLORIFYING GOD

(September 13-19, 2021)

MONDAY, September 13: "Blind Eyes Shall Be Opened" (Isaiah 35:1-6)

TUESDAY, September 14: "Declare God's Glory among the Nations" (Psalm 96)

WEDNESDAY, September 15: "Glory to God's Name Alone" (Psalm 115:1-3, 9-18)

THURSDAY, September 16: "Only God Is Good" (Mark 10:17-22)

FRIDAY, September 17: "Greatness through Servanthood" (Mark 10:42-45)

SATURDAY, September 18: "'Praise the Lord, O My Soul!'" (Psalm 146)

SUNDAY, September 19: "Praise God for Healing!" (Mark 10:46-52)