



November 6, 2016

David & The Ark of the Covenant

The Ark of the Covenant represented God's presence with his people, but it was in a foreign land and was absent during Saul's reign. As David becomes king, he recognizes God's rightful place as king of Israel and desires to bring the Ark into Jerusalem, the new capital. In David's first attempt, he failed to bring the Ark based on God's instructions (Exodus 25:14; 37:5; Num 4:6), and it ended in the death of Uzzah and left David angry, afraid, and wondering how to bring the Ark into his care. In David's second attempt, he brought back the Ark on God's terms and it ended in a celebration and led David to worship.

1. How do you think people tend to view God in our culture? How does your view of God impact the way you relate to him? How did Uzzah's death impact the way David viewed God? How did his death impact the way he related to God?
2. David responded to Uzzah's death with anger and fear. Can you relate? Do you have a fear of God? What does it look like to fear God? Does your fear of God lead you to worship Him or does it lead you to avoid Him?
3. What does it look like to relate to God on your own terms? How can we try to manage or manipulate God?
4. Like David, are there some simple steps of obedience you may be overlooking in your life? Is there unconfessed sin?
5. What did David do after carrying the ark six steps? What was significant about the sacrifice? How does Jesus' sacrifice lead us to relate to God and to worship Him? How does Jesus' death and resurrection impact the way you view and relate to God? What does sending His son say about how God wants to relate to us?
6. Are you in a place in your life where you find yourself not desiring God's presence or avoiding him altogether? Why do we struggle to pursue God? How can we help each other pursue God and worship Him? Are there some moments in your life lately where God has stirred your heart to worship Him and you began to think of yourself less?