

Carry the Ark Relay

Materials

- ☐ Pool noodles, two per team
- ☐ Cardboard box/shoe box, one per team

Instructions

Divide class into teams. Students will pair up for this relay, so adjust teams to an even number or assign students to run twice, if necessary. Give the first pair in each team two pool noodles and a box.

Explain that students will be pretending to be the Levites who carried the ark of God to Jerusalem. Students must place pool noodles on their shoulders and balance the box in the middle. Have another teammate place the box on the pool noodles for each pair to start. When you say, "Go!" one pair from each team will race across the room and back while balancing the "ark" on the pool noodles. If it falls off, they must replace it on the pool noodles before continuing. When they return to their teams, the pairs will hand the pool noodles to the next pair while trying to keep the box from falling (successful teams will figure out how to do this effectively). If the box falls, teammates may help replace the box. The first team to finish wins.

Suggested Discussion

In today's lesson, David and the Israelites tried moving the ark two different ways.

- ? What was the first way they moved it? *On a cart pulled by oxen.*
- ? What was wrong with putting the ark of God on a cart? *This was not the way God had commanded them to move it.*
- ? What was the correct way God told them to move the ark? *The Levites were supposed to carry it on foot using poles.*

That's right. No one, not even the Levites who carried the ark, was allowed to touch it. The Israelites were supposed to obey God's commands and show respect for the holy objects that were part of the tabernacle. When Uzzah touched the ark, he died because he broke God's commands. But when David and the people followed God's instructions, they brought the ark safely to Jerusalem and placed it in a tent used for worship.