

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read II Samuel 6 aloud.

1. What was the mood as David and his company brought the ark out of the house of Abinadab?

Why was it so exciting to move a box to Jerusalem?

What was the significance of the ark of God? Who made it? What did it contain? *See Bible notes on next page.*

2. What happened to Uzzah?

What was the problem with Uzzah’s action? With his heart?
Verse 7 says the problem was irreverence.

3. How did David react to this situation with Uzzah?

Was David angry with Uzzah or God?

How do you think Obed-Edom felt about receiving the ark?

4. What happened to the house of Obed-Edom while he cared for the ark?

How do you think Obed-Edom’s treatment of the ark compared to the way Uzzah treated it?

Uzzah had grown up taking care of the ark, and might have forgotten what a precious treasure it was. Obed-Edom did not forget!

5. What was different and what was the same about the way they transported the ark the second time?

There was still a cart and great celebration, but this time they offered a sacrifice after they took six steps.

6. What was Michal’s objection to David’s behavior when the ark came to town?

He had not distinguished himself like a king.

What was David’s response to Michal? *Verses 21-23.*

As David engaged in this passionate, public worship, how aware was he of the crowd? How did the crowd affect the way he worshipped?

Verse 22 indicates David was aware of the crowd but he didn’t care because He was consumed with his passion for God.

7. If you had observed David and Uzzah as the ark was moving, who would have appeared irreverent? Who was irreverent in God’s eyes, the dancer or the cautious one?

How would you define reverence and irreverence based on II Samuel 6? What are some irreverent behaviors that people might be guilty of today?

Based on II Samuel 6, reverence involves throwing yourself wholeheartedly into worship. Irreverence would be approaching worship as dull duty, with no sense of awe in God’s presence.

What would happen if David joined our church for worship? How would we receive him?

How does culture impact our understanding of worship? How do you deal with a heritage that struggles with the emotional side of life?

Many Christians grew up with a Puritan-rationalist view that worship should be thoughtful and quiet. There are strengths and blind spots within this view (as there are with any worldview). Our struggle is to embrace the emotional side of life and faith without losing the solid intellectual foundation.

† **The big question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

What could you do to deepen your passion for worship?

Notice that the question is not “what can the elders or songleaders do?”

Resources

Bible notes

- The ark of the covenant was made by Moses' generation, and it contained the 10 commandment stones (Ex. 25:10-22). It was captured by the Philistines in I Sam 4, but they returned it to Kiriath-Jearim after seven months of curses (I Sam 5). It stayed at Kiriath-Jearim until this story, roughly 50 years later.
- The ark remained at Jerusalem until its destruction in 586 (about 400 years), and then only Indiana Jones knows where it landed.
- Hebrews 9:4 cites a Jewish tradition that the ark also contained a pot of manna and Aaron's rod (Num. 17), but nobody had seen the ark for 600 years when Hebrews was written.

Prayer ideas

Pray for passion and reverence in our worship.

Pray for wisdom and devotion in everything we do.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Sing several songs praising God.

Read II Samuel 6:1-15 from a kids' Bible.

What did David do? What did Uzzah do?

Why was God pleased with David but angry at Uzzah?

This question may be too difficult, because of how our kids understand worship. But there is something about the uninhibited spirit of David that kids can relate to.

What can you do to honor God with all your might?



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LIFE Group Guide

II Samuel 6 – Worshipping with a passion

By John Grant (jgrant@collegethills.org)

The theme: **Worshipping with reverence means worshipping with passion and thought.**

II Samuel 6 raises questions about what God expects from worshippers. While it might appear that dutiful Uzzah is more spiritual than dancing David, God's response shows something different.

Leadership tip: With this being a holiday weekend, you may have low attendance. Meet anyway. Some of the richest group meetings are micro-groups of 2-5, because you have more time for focused conversation. Micro-group meetings often work best if you drop the lesson and linger over a meal.

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

❖ What is the opposite of reverence?

We have a sense that reverence is solemn and thoughtful, but passion is thoughtless and loud. II Samuel 6 argues that reverent worship is both thoughtful and passionate.

❖ How is worship different in other cultures (like a foreign country)?

❖ When you get angry, are you more like a turtle or a skunk? Do you clam up or do you explode?