



Week 6



Day 1: Celebrating God's Presence

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 6:1-5

Devotional:

Have you ever heard of the Ark of God? Not Noah's ark, the big boat! This Ark was a special, gold-covered box God told His people to build. It wasn't just any box, it represented God's presence with them. Inside were reminders of His faithfulness, and wherever it went, it reminded people: *God is with us*. Years earlier, God's people treated the Ark like a good luck charm instead of honoring God. They took it into battle without listening to Him, and their enemies, the Philistines, captured it (1 Samuel 4)! God showed His power, though, and the Ark was sent back, but it stayed in someone's house (Abinadab in Kiriath-jearim 1 Samuel 7:1-2) for many years instead of being at the center of worship. Now that David is king, he brings the Ark to Jerusalem so everyone can remember and celebrate that God is with them. That's why this moment is such a big deal! This isn't just moving a box, it's bringing God back to the center of their lives. A heart after God doesn't wait for perfect circumstances to be thankful. It remembers: God is here, and that's enough.

Discussion:

1. What are some ways David celebrated God?
2. What is one way you can show gratitude to God today?

Prayer:

God, thank You for always being with me. Help me to celebrate You with joy, even in simple moments. Amen.



Welcome to our week 6 devo for Pet Squad! All month long we are taking a look at the life of David to see what it looks like to have a heart after God's heart! This week, we are learning A Heart After God is Grateful through the story of David bringing back the Ark of God. We're *fur* real excited about what we're learning!

Day 2: Gratitude Takes Time and Care

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 6:6-12

Devotional:

When David first tried to bring the Ark back, something went wrong. They didn't follow God's instructions, and it led to a scary moment. So David stopped and waited. He placed the Ark in the home of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months. Later, when David tried again, he did it God's way: with care, respect, and understanding. Gratitude isn't just loud celebration, it's also careful obedience. Sometimes we think being thankful just means saying "thank you" or singing songs. But real gratitude shows up in how we listen to God and follow Him. When we take God seriously, when we slow down, pay attention, and do things His way, that's a powerful way to show we're grateful. David learned that honoring God matters. His second attempt wasn't rushed or careless. It was thoughtful and intentional. A heart after God says: "God, You matter so much to me that I want to do things *Your way*."

Discussion:

1. Why do you think it was important for David to slow down and do things God's way?
2. How can you show gratitude to God by obeying Him?

Prayer:

God, help me to listen to You and follow You carefully. Show me how to honor You with my choices. Amen.

Day 3: Gratitude Is Joyful and Bold

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 6:12-15

Devotional:

When David brought the Ark into the city, he danced before God with ALL his might! He didn't hold back and he didn't worry about looking silly. He didn't care what others thought because he was just full of joy.

Gratitude makes us bold!

Sometimes we hold back from showing our love for God because we feel shy or worried about what others might think. Maybe we don't sing loudly, raise our hands, or talk about God because we don't want to stand out.

But David reminds us that when your heart is full of gratitude, it overflows. You don't hide it, you express it. God isn't looking for perfect dancing or perfect singing. He's looking for a heart that is fully surrendered to Him alone. A grateful heart doesn't worry about being impressive, it just wants to honor God. A heart after God says: "I don't care who's watching, I just want to worship!"

Discussion:

1. Why do you think David didn't care what others thought?
2. What is one thing you can say to yourself when you feel shy so that you can show your love for God in a bold way?

Prayer:

God, help me not to be afraid to show my love for You. Fill my heart with joy and courage to worship You. Amen.

Day 4: Gratitude Chooses God Over Approval

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 6:16, 20-22

Devotional:

Not everyone liked how David celebrated.

Michal (his wife) watched him and felt embarrassed. She thought he looked foolish. When she told him, David didn't apologize for loving God, he said he would become even more "undignified" if it meant honoring God. That's a big word, but it means David was willing to look silly if it made God happy.

Gratitude isn't about pleasing people, it's about pleasing God. David knew something important: God had chosen him, loved him, and been faithful to him. That mattered more than anyone else's opinion.

A grateful heart remembers what God has done and says, "God, You are worth it, even if others don't understand."

Activity: "God Is With Us" Jar

Have each family member write or draw 3 things they're thankful for about God being with them (examples: "God helps me when I'm scared," "God listens when I pray," "God is with me at school"). Put all the papers in the jar. Take turns pulling one out, reading it, and doing a quick celebration after each one: cheer, clap, do a silly dance (like David!), or say, "Thank You, God!"

Prayer:

God, help me care more about what You think than what others think. Thank You for loving me and choosing me. Amen.

Memory Verse

**"The Lord does not look at the things people look at.
People look at the outside of a person.
But the Lord looks at what is in the heart."**

1 Samuel 16:7b

