



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Park the Ark

[10 min]

Supplies

- large plastic cups (1 per child)
- inflated balloon
- shiny foil star stickers (a few sheets)
- 2 chairs
- upbeat music (optional)

Easy Prep

- Place 1 of the chairs at an end of your room and the other chair directly across from the first at the opposite end.
- Place the balloon on the first chair and the sheets of stickers on the second chair.

Pass the Balloon “Ark”

Say: **In today’s Bible story, we heard about how David and his people celebrated God while they moved the Ark. David and his people celebrated God with music, shouts of joy, dancing, and blowing on horns, but they were always careful with God’s Ark because it’s very, very special.**

Let’s play a game where you’ll move a pretend Ark—a balloon—being careful not to touch it or drop it. And you’ll get to celebrate along the way, too!

- Form pairs (you or an adult or teen helper can play if needed to even out the number of players).
- Give everyone a cup, and have kids spread out between the two chairs, with partners standing side by side.
- The pair closest to the chair with the balloon will pick up the balloon by bringing their cups to each side of the balloon and pressing the cups toward each other so the balloon can be held and carried with only the cups making contact with the balloon.



- The first pair will then walk the balloon to the next pair to pass it off without anyone touching the balloon—only the cups.
- Once the balloon makes it to the chair with the stickers, that pair will carefully set the balloon down on the chair, place a celebratory sticker on each of their cups, and then pick up the balloon with the cups again and move it back to the starting chair.
- All pairs will move up a position and move the balloon between the chairs repeatedly until everyone has a star sticker on his or her cup.
- Throughout the game, all the kids can shout, cheer, whistle, sing, jump, dance, and celebrate God as they move their pretend Ark.
- If anyone drops or touches the balloon, the balloon must go back to the first chair to restart the relay round.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play to encourage celebration.

Talk About It

Ask: • **What did you do to treat the balloon carefully?**

• **Treating the Ark carefully was a reminder that God is praiseworthy. What reminds you of that?**

Say: **We celebrate things that mean a lot to us. God and God's Ark meant a lot to David and his people, and they weren't afraid to celebrate in a big, loud way because God is praiseworthy. God is so good and so important that we can make a big deal about him in our lives even if others think we're being silly.**



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Dance & Praise

[10 min]

Supplies

- “Dance & Praise” teaching video

Discuss and Watch “Dance & Praise”

Say: **David knew God is praiseworthy, and he celebrated God by singing and dancing.**

Ask: • **What do you like to do when you’re celebrating?**

Say: **Let’s watch a video about a girl who celebrates and worships God by dancing.**

Watch “Dance & Praise.”

Ask: • **Jaedyn says that dancing is an act of worship because God gave you the bodies to dance, so you’re supposed to give it right back to him. Do you agree with that? Explain.**

• **Jaedyn learned about God through dancing. What’s something you do that helps you learn more about who God is?**

• **This video says that “worship is treasuring God above all things.” When you think about worship that way, how could you worship God?**

Say: **God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him! We can celebrate him through dancing, like David and Jaedyn, or we can celebrate him through focusing on him, making sure he’s the most important, and showing our love for him. Let’s celebrate God all week!**



DEEPER BIBLE Celebrate!

[15 min]

Supplies

- Bible
- white bulletin board paper
- crayons
- painter's tape
- upbeat music—choose some of your children's ministry's favorite kids' worship songs!
- music player
- various preschool-friendly instruments (1 per child)*

Easy Prep

- Tape several large sheets of bulletin board paper around your room at kids' eye level and even a few sheets on the floor.

Talk About It

Say: **God is praiseworthy! We celebrate and praise God because there's no one like him! God is stronger and more powerful than anyone. And God made us and everything in the whole world!**

Share a couple of reasons *you* want to celebrate God. You might share how thankful you are that God gave you a child, or you might thank God for a job that you love.

Ask: • **What do you want to celebrate God for?** If kids need help getting started, have them name things they're thankful for, such as their families, friends, and homes. Explain that God gave them those things, so they can celebrate how God gives us all the good things we have.

Say: **God is so amazing, and God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him. David celebrated God in lots of ways! When David and his friends brought the Ark of God back to David's city, the Bible says, "David danced before the Lord with all his might...with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns." David danced and shouted and played instruments. And he even wrote songs to celebrate God! Here are a few things from his songs.**

Read Psalm 145:3 and Psalm 47:1.

Celebrate God

Say: **Let's celebrate God like David did! We'll sing, dance, play instruments, and make awesome artwork to worship our awesome God.**

Play upbeat worship music, and invite kids to dance and sing along as they color on the sheets of bulletin board paper and play with the musical instruments.

Join children in dancing, coloring, and singing to model the joy of the Lord and celebrating our God! Let this be an upbeat, unstructured time for kids to worship in multiple ways.

Say: **When we praise God, we're telling God how amazing he is. And praising God brings joy and happiness to our hearts, too, because it reminds us of how much God loves us. God is praiseworthy, so we celebrate him!**



LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Celebrate Our Way

[5 min]

Celebrate God

Say: Today we found out God is praiseworthy. God's friend David knew that, so he celebrated by dancing and playing instruments. We can celebrate God, too. Let's celebrate now as we think of reasons God is praiseworthy.

Have the children stand in a circle. Say: **God made each of us. Have you ever seen a newborn baby? God made that baby so perfectly. Let's clap to let God know he's praiseworthy for how he made us.** Lead the children in clapping.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, for making us.**

Say: **God made the sun, the moon, and the stars in the sky. Think of how pretty the sky is on a bright sunny day or a warm summer night. Let's wave our arms to show God we think he's praiseworthy for the world he made.** Lead children in waving their arms.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, for making a beautiful world for us to live in.**

Say: **God watches over us. Think of how we got to church safely today. Let's thank God and praise him for getting us here safely.** Lead children in jumping joyfully to praise God.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, for how strong you are. You protect us and keep us safe.**

Say: **God loves us so much, and he's always with us. His love feels like a warm hug. Let's praise God for all the love and care he gives us.** Lead children in hugging themselves.

Pray: **We celebrate you, God, because you're always with us and you love us no matter what!**

Close

Say: **God loves when we celebrate him. And God is so praiseworthy! He's so powerful, so kind, and so loving. Let's thank him for using his power to take care of us.** Lead kids in one more prayer, thanking God.

Say: **You can celebrate God anytime, anywhere. This week, when you see a newborn baby, a bright sunny sky, or anything that reminds you of God, celebrate him and how praiseworthy he is. I hope you'll come back next week and share some of the reasons you celebrate God this week.**



ACTIVITY PAGES WITH A POINT

Words of Praise

[10 min]

Supplies

- “David Celebrates” Coloring Page
- pencils
- crayons

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: **God is praiseworthy.** Let’s celebrate him like David did—using words from songs David wrote, called psalms.

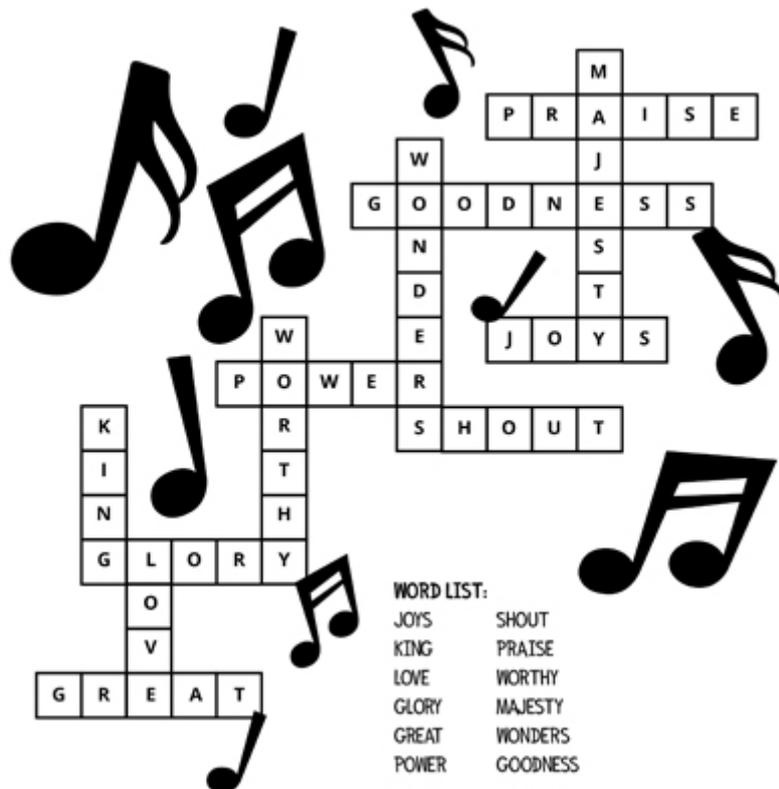
Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will fit the words into the puzzle.

Ask: • How did you figure out which words went where?

• What are different ways to praise God?

Say: There was only one right way to fill the words into this puzzle, but there’s not just one right way to praise God. We can celebrate God through singing, dancing, shouting, or anything else that comes from the heart. **God is praiseworthy,** so we celebrate him.

ANSWER KEY:



Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons. Say: **God is praiseworthy! Let's celebrate God by coloring David praising him.**

Allow time for kids to color the picture.