



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for March 2, 2008  
Released on Wednesday, February 27, 2008**

**"The Ark Came to Jerusalem"**

**Lesson: 1 Chronicles 15:1–3, 14–16, 25–28.**

**Read: 1 Chronicles 15:1–28.**

**Devotional Reading: Psalm 150.**

**Background Scripture: 1 Chronicles 13, 15.**

**Times: possibly 1000 B.C.**

**Place: Jerusalem**

**GOLDEN TEXT: "David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place" (1 Chronicles 15:3).**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: 1 Chronicles 15:1–3, 14–16, 25–28**

1And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent.

**2Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.**

3And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.

.....  
**14So the priests and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel.**

15And the children of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their shoulders with the staves thereon, as Moses commanded according to the word of the LORD.

**16And David spake to the chief of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with instruments of musick, psalteries and harps and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the voice with joy.**

.....  
25So David, and the elders of Israel, and the captains over thousands, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obbededom with joy.

**26And it came to pass, when God helped the Levites that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered seven bullocks and seven rams.**

27And David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the song with the singers: David also had upon him an ephod of linen.

**28So all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouts, with the sounding of rams' horns and trumpets, and of cymbals, and the playing of lyres and harps.**

28Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

The bicentennial celebrations in the United States were perhaps the most spectacular events in our nation's recent history. The most magnificent celebration in David's kingdom was bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. It was more awesome than David's enthronement!

David was Israel's second king. Saul, the first king, showed no interest in bringing the ark to Jerusalem (compare this to 1 Chron. 13:3). He was content to leave it at Abinadab's home, where it had been for nearly seventy years.

Years earlier, the Israelites had taken the Ark of the Covenant into battle, mistakenly supposing that the symbol of God's presence (instead of God Himself) would protect them in battle. The Philistines won the battle and captured the ark. After offering the ark to Dagon, their idol god, the Philistines discovered the ark would bring them only grief and pain. They returned it to Israel (1 Sam. 4–6).

What was the Ark of the Covenant, and why was it important to David to bring the ark to Jerusalem? The ark was a visible embodiment of God's covenant. God would protect and bless His people if they would obey Him (compare this to Exod. 24:4,7).

The ark was a rectangular chest 3¾ feet long and 2¼ feet wide and high. It was gold-plated inside and out.

"The initially declared purpose of the... chest, was to hold the 'testimony' to God's salvation (Exod. 25:16)" (Tenney, ed., *The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible*, Zondervan).

The ark held the Ten Commandments, two quarts of manna in a jar, and Aaron's rod that had budded (Exod. 25:16; Deut. 10:5; compared to Exod. 16:33–34; Num. 17:10; Heb. 9:4). "Beyond containing memorials to what God had already done, the Ark served as well as a sacramental sign of His continuing covenantal activity" (Tenney).

Once a year, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest sprinkled the mercy seat, the ark's cover, with the blood of a bull and a goat to make a sin offering. This pictured the blood Jesus would shed for our sins on the cross. The ark looked back to what God had done, reminded the people of what God wanted to do for them in the present, and pointed forward to the salvation through Jesus Christ.

By bringing the ark back with so much ceremony and celebration, David showed that he trusted God's covenant and that he intended to give God the central place in his life and his kingdom.

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that just as David trusted God's covenant and gave Him first place in his kingdom, so we should trust God's promises and give Him first place in our hearts.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

David brought the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem.

David wanted God to be first in his life and in his kingdom.  
God should be first in our lives.

**PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

For Beginning the Lesson, cover a large shoe box with white paper. Use colored markers to draw question marks on the box. You will use this mystery box each Sunday to teach a new lesson and review past ones. Put a small American flag in the box.

For Telling the Lesson, tape together six sheets of brown construction paper. Cut the paper into a fence. Tape it to your classroom wall. You will use the fence all this quarter. Make a construction paper tulip. On it print, "David Put God First." Bring Tape.

For Helping to Remember, cut a construction paper crown for each student. Do not fasten the ends of the crown together. You need crayons and a safety stapler.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Chris was excited. He had watched many parades, but he had never been in one before. The librarian had asked Chris to ride with some other boys and girls on the library float.

What do you like best in a parade? (Allow responses.) We may hear tubas and drums and see decorated bicycles and floats. Almost always we see the American flag. Stand and salute the flag when it passes. (Take flag from the mystery box and hold it up. Have students recite the Pledge of Allegiance.)

The best line in the Pledge of Allegiance is "one nation, under God." The flag is a reminder to us that God gave us our land and that we trust in God.

God's people, Israel, also had a reminder. The Ark of the Covenant was a reminder that God had given them their land and that He had promised to bless them if they obeyed Him. You will hear the word "covenant" often this quarter. Remember that "covenant" means "promise." The covenant was the promise God made to His people.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

For many years, God's people had neglected the Ark of the Covenant. As soon as King David finished his own buildings in the city of Jerusalem, he made a place for the Ark of the Covenant and made plans to bring it to Jerusalem. David wanted the Ark of the Covenant to be in Jerusalem, where it could remind the people to trust and obey God.

David trusted God's covenant, or promise. God had promised to bless Israel if His people would obey Him. David wanted to obey God.

David reminded the people that God had said that only the Levites could carry the ark. God had chosen them to do this work.

David called the people all over the land to come to Jerusalem. It was time to bring the ark to Jerusalem. Some of the people might not have known what the ark was or what it meant. They would know soon.

The priests and Levites went through special cleansing ceremonies to get ready to move the ark. Just as God had commanded Moses, the Levites carried the Ark of the Covenant on their shoulders.

David told the leaders of the Levites to prepare a choir and a band for the celebration. David wanted to hear joyful songs accompanied with lyres (stringed instruments), cymbals (large bells), and harps.

The huge musical parade must have sounded wonderful. David was a talented songwriter, and he prepared some of the music (1 Chron. 16:8–36).

The large parade would both honor God and help the boys and girls and men and women remember the importance of the Ark of the Covenant. They would never forget that spectacular parade.

David was showing all the people that he trusted God's covenant and wanted God to have a central place in his kingdom and in his life. David put God first. (Tape the tulip to the wall behind the paper fence.)

David, the rulers of Israel, and the commanders of the army went to get the ark. It was at the house of Obededom. The people celebrated with great joy as they brought the ark to Jerusalem.

The Levites who carried the ark by its poles on their shoulders may have been afraid. God had said that no one was to touch the ark. People could touch only the poles. Several years before this, a man named Uzzah had touched the ark and died (2 Sam. 6:6).

God helped the Levites remember His rules. They carried the ark the right way, and God helped them. They were happy and grateful to God. They sacrificed seven bulls and rams to God along the way.

What would you wear to a special parade if you were king? Would you wear your finest robes and your golden crown? David, the Levites, the singers, and Chenaniah, the man in charge of the choirs, all wore linen robes. David also wore a linen ephod, or vest. He did not wear his royal robes. David was not the center of attention. It was a day for the people to focus on God.

If we had been in Jerusalem on that day, we would have seen all Israel taking part in the parade. We would have heard the people shouting and singing. We would have heard the ram's horns, the trumpets, the cymbals, the lyres, and the harps. We could have seen the Levites carrying the ark, and King David dressed just as the singers were, praising God with great joy.

#### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

King Saul, Israel's first king, cared nothing for the ark. He did not put God first in his kingdom or in his life. He did not trust the covenant God had made with His people. He did not obey God. God did not bless Him.

David did trust God's covenant. He believed what God said—that God would bless His people if they obeyed Him. David put God first in his kingdom. Even though he sinned, he tried to put God first in his life. God blessed David.

You have a choice to make. Will you trust Jesus as Saviour and put God first in your life? To put God first means to let God be the "boss" in your life. It means to obey Him, and to let Him guide you as you make decisions and choices.

**HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Each student may use crayons to draw jewels on his crown. He should print "David Put God First" on it. Staple the ends of the crown to fit each child.

**EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

"David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place" (1 Chronicles 15:3).

David wanted as many people as possible to be there when he brought the ark up to Jerusalem. The ark of the Lord was a sign of the covenant God had made with His people.

David wanted to honor God and God's covenant. David wanted all the people to trust and obey God. David put God first in his kingdom.

**Lesson Summarized by:**

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Jesus Is All Ministries

[www.jesusisall.com](http://www.jesusisall.com)

\*Please take time to make the paper fence and mystery box suggested in this lesson (PLANNING VISUAL AIDS). You will use them all quarter.

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"The Ark Came to Jerusalem"**  
**(1 Chronicles 15:1–3, 14–16, 25–28)**



**Memory Verse:**

"David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place" (1 Chronicles 15:3).

**Questions:**

1. Who was it that gathered all Israel together? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where did he gather them to? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What was brought to this place? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Were they happy to do this? (YES)(NO)
5. Did this show that they put God first in their lives? (YES)(NO)
6. Should we be happy to put God first in our life? (YES)(NO)

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**

**"The Ark Came to Jerusalem"**

**(1 Chronicles 15:1–3, 14–16, 25–28)**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place" (1 Chronicles 15:3).

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:**

1. "And David made him (**HOUSES, HOLES**) in the city of David, and prepared a place for the (**ARK OF GOD, PEOPLE OF GOD**), and pitched for it a tent." 1 CHRONICLES 15:1
2. "Then David said, None ought to (**SEE, CARRY**) the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the Lord chosen to carry the ark of God, and to (**SHOUT, MINISTER**) unto him for ever." 1 CHRONICLES 15:2
3. "And David gathered all (**ISRAEL, SINGERS**) together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his (**THRONE, PLACE**), which he had prepared for it." 1 CHRONICLES 15:3
4. "So the (**PEOPLE, PRIESTS**) and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of (**HEAVEN, ISRAEL**)." 1 CHRONICLES 15:14

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

5. The children of the Levites carried the Ark of God upon their shoulders using poles so they would not touch the ark directly. 1 CHRONICLES 15:15 **TRUE OR FALSE**
6. Aaron was the one who first told the children of Israel the right way to carry the Ark of God—back in Exodus 25:14. 1 CHRONICLES 15:2 **TRUE OR FALSE**
7. The people used singing, musical instruments, shouts of joy, and dancing in their parade to celebrate the return of the Ark of God. 1 CHRONICLES 15:16 **TRUE OR FALSE**
8. Obededom was the holy man who had kept the Ark of God in his home until it was time for it to be moved to Jerusalem by John the Baptist. 1 CHRONICLES 15:25 **TRUE OR FALSE**

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"The Ark Came to Jerusalem"**  
**(1 Chronicles 15:1–3, 14–16, 25–28)**

**What Was Inside the Ark of the Covenant?**

According to Scripture, at one time or another, three of the following items are said to have been placed inside the Ark of the Covenant. Can you find and circle them? (For help, see: Exodus 25:16; 1 Kings 8:9; Hebrews 9:4)



1. A family portrait of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam
2. Two stone tablets of the law (that is, the Ten Commandments)
3. A wooden cross on a gold chain
4. A pair of leather sandals for walking in the desert
5. A golden pot of "manna"—a type of supernatural food
6. A letter to the Levite priests that King David wrote
7. Musical instruments for celebrating Passover
8. A prayer pillow and Bible
9. The rod of Aaron—the brother of Moses and a Levite priest
10. Candles and incenses for making burnt offerings



**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"The Ark Came to Jerusalem"**  
**(1 Chronicles 15:1–3, 14–16, 25–28)**

**MEMORY VERSE:**

"David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the Lord unto his place" (1 Chronicles 15:3).

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:**

1. "Then David said, None ought to \_\_\_\_\_ the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to \_\_\_\_\_ unto him for ever." 1 CHRONICLES 15:2
2. "So the \_\_\_\_\_ and the Levites sanctified themselves to bring up the ark of the LORD God of \_\_\_\_\_." 1 CHRONICLES 15:14
3. "And the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Levites bare the ark of God upon their \_\_\_\_\_ with the staves thereon, as \_\_\_\_\_ commanded according to the word of the LORD." 1 CHRONICLES 15:15
4. "And David spoke to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Levites to appoint their brethren to be the singers with \_\_\_\_\_ of musick, psalteries and \_\_\_\_\_ and cymbals, sounding, by lifting up the \_\_\_\_\_ with joy." 1 CHRONICLES 15:16
5. "So David, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, and the captains over \_\_\_\_\_, went to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the house of Obededom with \_\_\_\_\_." 1 CHRONICLES 15:25
6. "And it came to pass, when God helped the \_\_\_\_\_ that bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, that they offered \_\_\_\_\_ bullocks and seven \_\_\_\_\_." 1 CHRONICLES 15:26
7. "And \_\_\_\_\_ was clothed with a robe of fine \_\_\_\_\_, and all the Levites that bare the ark, and the singers, and Chenaniah the master of the \_\_\_\_\_ with the singers: David also had upon him an \_\_\_\_\_ of linen." 1 CHRONICLES 15:27
8. "Thus all \_\_\_\_\_ brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with \_\_\_\_\_, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a \_\_\_\_\_ with psalteries and harps." 1 CHRONICLES 15:28