

Bold text is spoken text.

Bible Point

It's good to worship God with others.

Bible Verse

"Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds" (1 Chronicles 16:9).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- You'll
- toss socks to highlight how some things are best done together,
 - make arks of the covenant to show that they want to follow God and
 - plan to worship God through praise-worthy daily gratitude.

Adult Enrichment

Bible Basis

- David leads the people in worship.

This chapter comes only a few chapters after David had become king over Israel (see 1 Chronicles 11:3). After becoming king, David conquered Jerusalem and began making plans for a proper place for the ark of the covenant to reside in that city. Once a suitable place was prepared, the ark was brought in, and David initiated a time of praise and thanks, which we see in 1 Chronicles 16.

David made the appropriate sacrifices to the Lord (16:2) and spread the joy among the people (16:3). In addition, he made sure that the ark would be cared for and that the Levites would offer prayers and praise to God before the ark (16:4).

Then David broke into his own prayer of praise, which is something of a compilation of parts of psalms: 1 Chronicles 16:8-22 is taken from Psalm 105:1-15; 1 Chronicles 16:23-33 is taken from Psalm 96; and 1 Chronicles 16:34-36 is taken from Psalm 106:1, 47-48.

When the prayer was over, the people responded in affirmation and praised the Lord themselves (1 Chronicles 16:36b). They all worshipped together, thanking God for the wonderful things he had done!

Game

■ *Better Together*

SUPPLIES: *Rolled up socks*

Each family member will hold a rolled-up sock and line up side-by-side against one wall.

Explain each person is to play catch by tossing the sock to the far wall, running to the wall to catch it before it falls to the floor, and then tossing it back to catch it again. Each family member will be playing catch alone.

After trying this a time or two, have family members form pairs and play catch together. If there are an odd number of family members, an adult can sit this game out so everyone has a partner.

Have players catch with one hand, toss with a non-dominant hand, catch behind their backs, and catch only after hitting the sock once into the air volleyball-style. Have fun!

Then, as a family, talk about this:

- **Was it more fun to play catch solo or with someone else?**
- **What's something else that's more fun to do if you're together with someone else?**
- **What's something you look forward to doing with someone else after the virus restrictions are no longer in force?**

Say: **Here's something I miss doing with other people: Worshipping God. Yes, we can worship God alone, but it's good to worship God with others, too.**

One way God's people worshipped God together in Bible times was to work together to create a special box called the Ark of the Covenant.

Let's look at what they did now!

(Children's Ministry Directors: You can't show yourself playing catch with someone, but you can show yourself tossing the sock out of frame and that you couldn't get to the other side of the room in time to catch the sock.)

Bible Exploration & Application

■ *Ark of the Covenant*

SUPPLIES: Bible, boxes (shoe boxes, Tupperware boxes, other small boxes), markers, paper, scissors, tape

Say: **In biblical times, there was a special box called the ark of the covenant. The box was covered with gold. Inside the ark were two stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them. It also contained a pot of manna that the Israelites had picked up in the wilderness to eat and a special stick that belonged to Aaron, Moses' brother. The ark was special because it reminded all the people of their agreement—their covenant—to follow God and of God's faithfulness in taking care of them.**

Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 16 and show everyone the chapter.

Say: **Our Bible story today comes from 1 Chronicles 16:1-36. In our story today, David put the ark in a special tent. All the people worshipped God together because they were happy that God had taken care of them. They wanted to show God that they would try to live up to their agreement to obey him all the time. We're going to make our own arks of the covenant today.**

The Bible describes what the ark looked like. In Exodus 25:10-22 God told his people to make a box out of special wood and then to cover the box with gold. On top there were two gold statues of angels facing each other. We don't have a special wooden box or gold, but we do have these art supplies. Let's see what we can do!

Each family member will use a box and decorate their arks using the art supplies. (Children's Ministry Directors: Leading this over video? Make your own on video as families work!)

- **What are some ways we can honor and obey God?**
- **Why is it important to keep agreements we make with God?**
- **The ark of the covenant reminded God's people of what God had done for them. What are things that God has done for us in the past?**

Say: **In our Bible story today, all the people got together and put the ark of the covenant in a tent that became its special home. The people had a parade to bring the ark to its new home. It was a wonderful day when the people got together and worshipped God. It's good to worship God with others. Let's do**

that now.

Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:25-31, and read aloud the following paraphrase. Tell family members to say, “We worship you!” every time they hear the words, “The Lord.”

The Lord (“We worship you!”) **is great! He should be praised. He should be honored more than all the gods. All the gods that other people serve are only idols—they aren’t real. But the Lord** (“We worship you!”) **made the skies.**

The Lord (“We worship you!”) **has glory and majesty like a king. He has power and joy in his temple. Everyone in every country should praise the Lord.** (“We worship you!”) **Praise the Lord** (“We worship you!”) **because he is wonderful. Bring gifts and come to the Lord.** (“We worship you!”) **Worship the Lord** (“We worship you!”) **because he is holy. Everyone should tremble before the Lord.** (“We worship you!”) **Even the skies should be joyful, and the earth should be glad. Let people everywhere say, “The Lord (“We worship you!”) is king!”**

Say: **When we say out loud how great God is, and all he’s done for us, we’re worshipping God. It’s good to worship with others** because they’ll help us remember all the reasons to honor and love God.

■ *Service With a Smile*

SUPPLIES: Slips of paper and pencils or pens

Give each family member one or more slips of paper and these instructions: Write or draw on a slip of paper something you’re grateful that God is doing for your family right now.

It may be that you have food in the pantry, or that you have a place to live. Maybe you’re grateful that God is giving you ways to enjoy being together.

When each family member has filled out one or more slips of paper, have family members place those slips of paper in the arks of the covenant they created and place those arks where they’ll be visible for the coming week.

Say: **Sometimes we forget to be grateful. This week let’s take out a slip each day and thank God for what he’s doing for us. We’ll practice gratitude—and that worship will serve God with praise.**