

3. The Mercy of God

Read **2 Samuel 6: 9-13**. What is different this time? What does this tell us about the mercy of God?

4. The Joy of God

Read **2 Samuel 6: 14-15**. What has caused David to express so much emotion? What does this communicate to us?

Note: These four characteristics of God (power, holiness, mercy and joy) have not changed.

Hebrews chapter 9 gives us a link, but also a contrast between today's passage and our lives today. Reflect on **Hebrews 9: 1-10** for a reminder of the Old Covenant. Then read **Hebrews 9: 11-15**. How has God resolved the dilemmas of the Old Covenant?

Now that we have reflected on the story in 2 Samuel 6, and placed it into perspective by reading Hebrews 9, what can we be grateful for? What does this mean for our lives?

Pray

Pray by thanking God for his wonderful characteristics, his power, holiness, mercy and joy. Thank God for Jesus Christ, the perfect Lamb and sacrifice. Pray that God would help us to be continually thankful for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ.



After God's Own Heart -DAVID-

Growth Group Study Guide Week 7

25 June 2023

"Raiders of the Lost Ark"

2 Samuel 6: 1-15

Series Overview:

Over seven weeks, we will study and reflect on a central character in the Old Testament; David. We will look at events leading up to his birth, as well as his development and faith in God. Our prayer is that we will grow closer to God through viewing the life of God's servant and friend called David; a man after God's own heart.

If someone came to you and asked you to describe God, how would you respond? What descriptions would you use?

In today's passage, David is now king; Saul had committed suicide, and David's best friend Jonathon had been killed. One of David's first jobs as king was to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant. What do you know about this item?

The Ark was built during the Israelites wanderings in the wilderness; it contained special items, and it represented the presence of God. It was set up in a holy section of the tabernacle (a tent used as a temporary temple), hidden behind a curtain, and only accessed once a year by a priest after the sacrifice of an unblemished lamb. What does this say about the character of God?

The Ark of the Covenant was taken as spoils of war by the Philistines during the reign of King Saul. What do you think that would do to the morale of the Israelites?

Why didn't King Saul do anything about this? What do you think this says about the character of Saul?

Today's passage reminds us of four important aspects of God's character:

1. The Power of God

Recap what happened to the Ark after it was taken by the Philistines by reading **1 Samuel 5: 1-4**. What does this say about the power of God? What does this say to us?

The Philistines were scared of the Ark and sent it on its way into a remote place, where it stayed for twenty years. This is where King David comes into the story as he seeks to retrieve the Ark. This also reminds us of another aspect of God's character:

2. The Holiness of God

Read **2 Samuel 6: 1-8**. What do you see happening in this story?

For context, in the book of Exodus and Numbers, there is clear instructions on how the Ark is to be handled. **Read Exodus 25: 10-15, and Numbers 4: 15**. What were at least two instructions that the Israelites disregarded? (There are quite a few other instructions that were also not regarded).

What does this tell us about the holiness of God?