

Key Scripture:

2 Chronicles 35:2-3 (NLT)

2 Josiah also assigned the priests to their duties and encouraged them in their work at the Temple of the Lord. 3 He issued this order to the Levites, who were to teach all Israel and who had been set apart to serve the Lord: "Put the holy Ark in the Temple that was built by Solomon son of David, the king of Israel. You no longer need to carry it back and forth on your shoulders. Now spend your time serving the Lord your God and his people Israel.

2 Samuel 6:6-7 (NLT)

6 But when they arrived at the threshing floor of Nacon, the oxen stumbled, and Uzzah reached out his hand and steadied the Ark of God. 7 Then the LORD's anger was aroused against Uzzah, and God struck him dead because of this. So Uzzah died right there beside the Ark of God.

John 3:16 (NLT)

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

Revelation 11:16-19 (NLT)

Start **talking**. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What's your favorite action/adventure movie, and what do you enjoy most about it?

Start **sharing**. These questions are to help get your group thinking and to create openness.

- In "Raiders of the Lost Ark", everyone is searching for the Ark of the Covenant. How does this quest in the movie compare to our quest for God's presence in our lives?
- **Read 2 Chronicles 35:2-3**. What does this passage reveal about the Ark's significance to the Israelites? How does it relate to our faith today?
- **2 Samuel 6:6-7**. Why did God strike Uzzah dead? How can we apply this concept of reverence to our relationship with God in our daily lives?
- In his message, Troy highlighted the consequences of touching the Ark without permission. How does this emphasize the importance of obedience to God's commands in our faith journey?
- **Read John 3:16**. What are the consequences of disobedience? How can we pay the price of our disobedience?
- In the movie, the Ark is portrayed as having great power. What are some ways in which God's presence and His Word hold power in our lives? Can you share personal experiences where you felt God's presence had a significant impact?
- Indiana Jones is known for his determination and fearlessness. What are some parallels between Jones' determination and our journey as Christians? How can we overcome our fears and obstacles in our faith?

Start **doing**. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Choose one practical way this week to honor God's presence and holiness. Examples are an act of service, studying scripture, fasting, and prayer. Share with your group what action step you're committing to this week.

Start **praying**. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray for the strength to approach God with reverence and obedience. Praise and thank him for his holiness and his presence in your lives. Confess where you have fallen short and ask for his forgiveness!

Question: "What is the Ark of the Covenant?"

Answer: God made a covenant (a conditional covenant) with the children of Israel through His servant Moses. He promised good to them and their children for generations if they obeyed Him and His laws; but He always warned of despair, punishment, and dispersion if they were to disobey. As a sign of His covenant He had the Israelites make a box according to His own design, in which to place the stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments. This box, or chest, was called an "ark" and was made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. The Ark was to be housed in the inner sanctum of the tabernacle in the desert and eventually in the Temple when it was built in Jerusalem. This chest is known as the Ark of the Covenant.

The real significance of the Ark of the Covenant was what took place involving the lid of the box, known as the "Mercy Seat." The term 'mercy seat' comes from a Hebrew word meaning "to cover, placate, appease, cleanse, cancel or make atonement for." It was here that the high priest, only once a year (Leviticus 16), entered the Holy of Holies where the Ark was kept and atoned for his sins and the sins of the Israelites. The priest sprinkled blood of a sacrificed animal onto the Mercy Seat to appease the wrath and anger of God for past sins committed. This was the only place in the world where this atonement could take place.

The Mercy Seat on the Ark was a symbolic foreshadowing of the ultimate sacrifice for all sin—the blood of Christ shed on the cross for the remission of sins. The Apostle Paul, a former Pharisee and one familiar with the Old Testament, knew this concept quite well when he wrote about Christ being our covering for sin in Romans 3:24-25: "...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith." Just as there was only one place for atonement of sins in the Old Testament—the Mercy Seat of the Ark of the Covenant—so there is also only one place for atonement in the New Testament and current times—the cross of Jesus Christ. As Christians, we no longer look to the Ark but to the Lord Jesus Himself as the propitiation and atonement for our sins.

© Copyright 2002-2023 Got Questions Ministries. All rights reserved.

www.GotQuestions.org