

AFTER GOD'S HEART

A STUDY IN THE LIFE OF DAVID

After God's Heart Part 8—His Presence, Our Priority

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USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

From God's words to you, not one will fall to the ground.

[Psalm 27:4-6, NIV]

One thing I ask from the LORD,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the LORD
and to seek him in his temple.
For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.
Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;

at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

[2 Samuel 6:1-2, NLT]

Then David again gathered all the elite troops in Israel, 30,000 in all. He led them to Baalah of Judah to bring back the Ark of God, which bears the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, who is enthroned between the cherubim.

[Exodus 29:45-46]

Then I will live among the people of Israel and be their God, and they will know that I am the LORD their God. I am the one who brought them out of the land of Egypt **so that I could live among them**. I am the LORD their God.

[Ezekiel 37:27]

My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people.

God wants more than visitation rights on the weekend: He doesn't want an hour and 15 minutes every other Sunday. He wants to dwell among and abide with you.

[John 1:14]

And the Word became flesh **and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

[John 14:16, NLT]

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, **who will never leave you**.

[Revelation 21:3-4, NKJV]

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God (God’s home) **is** with men, and **He will dwell with them**, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them **and be** their God.

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

[2 Samuel 6:3-5]

They placed the Ark of God on a new cart and brought it from Abinadab’s house, which was on a hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab’s sons, were guiding the cart ⁴that carried the Ark of God. Ahio walked in front of the Ark. ⁵David and all the people of Israel were celebrating before the LORD, singing songs and playing all kinds of musical instruments—lyres, harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals.

[2 Samuel 6:6-11]

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. ⁷Then 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.

David was angry because the LORD’s anger had burst out against Uzzah. He named that place Perez-uzzah (which means “to burst out against Uzzah”), as it is still called today.

David was now afraid of the LORD, and he asked, “How can I ever bring the Ark of the LORD back into my care?” So David decided not to move the Ark of the LORD into the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-edom of Gath. The Ark of

the LORD remained there in Obed-edom's house for three months, and the LORD blessed Obed-edom and his entire household.

When we make the sacred common, we put holy things on a man-made religious cart.

1. Recognize 'the sacred' and handle it appropriately.

SACRED = The Holy, set apart for God alone, worthy of awe and respect.
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2. Let your worship be an appropriate response to a Holy God.

[2 Samuel 6:12-23]

Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. ¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD.

²⁰ When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!”

²¹ David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. ²² I will become even more undignified than this, **and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.** But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

²³ And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

Pride is the biggest deterrent of true worship. He have to honor His presence if we’re going to be fruitful.

FOR MONDAY—

1. Prioritize the presence of God by carving out undistracted time and focusing on His holiness. If you can, take communion.
2. Carry the presence of God into your family, school, work environment, and everyday schedule. Carry the presence right into situations that seem impossible.

TALK IT THROUGH

1. What are some top priorities that are obvious in your circles or even family generations? What factors support that?
2. What does the culture around us consider sacred but doesn’t want us to touch or have a differing perspective regarding? Why do people often want God on their terms? How can we shift the culture? (Consider but don’t debate hot topics; make room for discussion, not division.)

3. How does the presence of God open doors that no one else can? How personally have you experienced that?
4. Why is the ark of the covenant so significant in the Bible? What did it carry and what impact did it have wherever it went? How do you recognize what is sacred and holy?
5. When have you read the Bible and thought, in the story, God's response was over the top or unreasonable? How can we gain a greater perspective?
6. Why is pride such a significant deterrent in our lives? How can we posture our lives in humility?
7. Why do we sometimes make sacred things common? What happens in our heart? What ripple effects can that have on those around us?
8. What are some sacred practices that we can begin to restore to cultivate the fear of the Lord?
9. What is your appropriate response when the presence of God comes in?
10. What is the "one thing" you are all about?