

# Honoring God



**THE HELPING HAND**  
Seventh Day Baptist  
Adult/Youth Sabbath School Lessons  
December 2019 - February 2020

## Honoring God

Lesson	Date	Page
Editor's Page		5
<b>Unit I — David Honors God</b>		
1. David Worships God in Jerusalem <i>1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29a</i>	Nov. 30	6
2. A Heart Filled with Gratitude <i>1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 28-36</i>	Dec. 7	12
3. Building God's House <i>1 Chronicles 17:1, 3-4, 11-14; 21:18, 21-27</i>	Dec. 14	18
4. The Lord Is with You <i>Luke 1:39-56</i>	Dec. 21	24
5. David's Prayer <i>1 Chronicles 17:16-27</i>	Dec. 28	30
<b>Unit II — Dedicating the Temple of God</b>		
6. A Place for the Ark <i>1 Kings 8:1-13</i>	Jan. 4	36
7. Solomon's Speech <i>1 Kings 8:14-21</i>	Jan. 11	42
8. Solomon's Dedication Prayer <i>1 Kings 8:22-30, 52-53</i>	Jan. 18	48
9. Solomon's Blessing <i>1 Kings 8:54-61</i>	Jan. 25	54
<b>Unit III — Jesus Teaches about True Worship</b>		
10. Single-minded Obedience <i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	Feb. 1	60
11. Piety That Honors God <i>Matthew 6:1-8</i>	Feb. 8	66
12. The Prayer of Jesus <i>Matthew 6:9-15</i>	Feb. 15	72
13. Perseverance in Prayer <i>Luke 11:5-13</i>	Feb. 22	78
Works Cited & Bible Copyright Notices		84
Contributors		85
Next Quarter's Lessons		86
Statement of Ownership		87

**Steve Osborn, Editor**

**The purposes of *The Helping Hand in Bible Study* are:**

- to provide for adults and older youth a quarterly for personal or group use in gaining a continually renewed knowledge of the Bible, Christian beliefs and church life, particularly that characteristic of Seventh Day Baptists.
- to enable such study of Christian convictions as will develop the students' abilities to share their faith.
- to strengthen appreciation of Seventh Day Baptist heritage and conviction of the Sabbath's truths.
- to nurture moral and spiritual aspects of daily living and decision-making.
- to provide resources for daily devotions.
- to encourage the educational ministry of Seventh Day Baptists around the world.

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## Editor's Page

Determining how to honor God with our lives should be a major emphasis for every believer. Paul's exhorted the Colossians, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father" (Colossians 3:17). One of the first ways we seek to honor God is in our worship.

This quarter explores ways of doing just that. The Old Testament sessions recall how David and Solomon honored God by establishing the center of worship in Jerusalem and building the Temple. The New Testament sessions focus on Jesus' teachings about right attitudes that honor God through worship.

Unit I, "David Honors God," has five sessions: four from First Chronicles and one from Luke. The first three sessions are from First Chronicles and tell about David's bringing the ark to Jerusalem, leading the people in offering a psalm of thanksgiving, and planning to build a house for God. Session 4, the Christmas session, considers Mary's visit to Elizabeth as found in Luke. Session 5 returns to First Chronicles and David's prayer of gratitude for God's promise of a dynasty.

Unit II, "Dedicating the Temple of God," has four sessions that explore Solomon's dedication of the Temple in First Kings. Solomon honors God by providing a place for the ark, by offering blessings to God for fulfilling the promise to David, by praying that God would hear prayers offered in the Temple, by calling the people to keep God's commandments, and by offering sacrifices to God.

Unit III, "Jesus Teaches about True Worship," has four sessions that explore what Jesus says about honoring God through one's spiritual practices. Matthew points to right attitudes in obeying God only and in honoring God in almsgiving and in prayer. The prayer of Jesus provides a comprehensive life approach in honoring God. Luke teaches about perseverance in prayer as a way to honor God.

I pray you will be richly blessed as you study God's Word and seek to allow it to impact your life for His glory.

For the Kingdom,

Steve

# 1. David Worships God in Jerusalem

1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29a

## Daily Bible Meditations

Angie Osborn

### Sunday

### Deuteronomy 18:1-5

As those called to minister before the Lord, the Levites would inherit no land. That sort of seems unfair until you read verse 2. The Lord was their inheritance—so much better than land! With that inheritance, came a promise that God would provide for their needs. Like the Levites, we have the Lord as our inheritance, through Jesus Christ. Like the Levites, God has promised to provide for our needs. As you go through your day, take time to bask in your heavenly inheritance. Take time to notice what that inheritance is and thank Jesus for making it so. Take time to notice how God provides for your needs and thank Him!

### Monday

### 1 Chronicles 13:5-8, 13-14

David had the best intentions. He was excited to bring the ark back into Jerusalem. Unfortunately, he did not pay attention to the details. God had set out some specific instructions about how the ark was to be moved and who could move it. David ignored God's directions and the result was the death of Uzza—and a lot of confusion and fear on David's part. As we seek to do the Lord's work, it is important that we face it with joy and celebration. But it is also crucial that follow God's lead and His plan. Through understanding of the Scriptures and prayer, we can do His work His way!

### Tuesday

### 1 Chronicles 15:4-13

David had been humbled by his first attempt to move the ark. This time, he understood the importance of following God's directives. He read Scripture, prayed, repented, and tried again; this time following God's plan. Often, we get caught up in ministry opportunities but get focused on the emotion, or the program, or the numbers, or.... Like David, it is important for us to be sure that God is at the center and it is His direction we are following. It is important to be excited about the ministry we are doing; it is important to have a good program and plan; but it is most important that we focus on the presence of God and doing things the way He would have us do them.

### Wednesday

### 1 Chronicles 16:1-6

Finally, the ark—the representation of God's presence—was returned to Israel! David's response to the ark's return to Israel was



one of praise-filled worship. He had learned from his past mistakes and was focused on basking in the presence of God. David also appointed Levites to commemorate the occasion and to thank and praise God. We, too, need to commemorate what God has done for us. Too often we do not take time to remember and thank God for all He has done. How can you commemorate what God has done in your life? Today, focus on what God has done in your life and with the excitement and heart of David—worship Him!

### **Thursday**

### **1 Chronicles 16:37-43**

The day that the ark was presented was a day of worship, sacrifice, and celebration. David did not plan for it to stop there though; it was only the beginning. David instituted ongoing service and worship before the Ark of the Covenant at its new resting place in Jerusalem. In doing so, David highlighted the importance of regular, daily worship. It is easy to get busy during the week and limit our focus of worship to Sabbath, but we are called to worship at all times. We are reminded of this in Psalm 113:3, “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

### **Friday**

### **Romans 12:1-8**

Paul encouraged the Romans to present themselves as living sacrifices to God. That means acknowledging that everything we have, even every breath we take, belongs to Him. Then, with that in mind, turn every part of our lives back to Him as an act of worship. What we do on Sabbath in corporate worship is important in our spiritual growth. However, Paul reminded us that worship is a full-bodied, whole person experience that happens as we live out our faith. The quality of our worship comes in how we live out our faith every day, not just the corporate worship we join in weekly with our church family.

### **Sabbath**

### **1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29a**

David had made his mistakes, but this time, he listened to God’s instructions, and followed His plan. As a result, the ark was placed and there was great rejoicing. In reading chapter 15, it is clear that David really took his time to create a detailed plan that would result in worshipping and rejoicing in God’s faithfulness. When God reveals His presence in our lives, we should also respond with great rejoicing. This Sabbath, take time to reflect on God’s faithfulness in your life. Be specific, notice the details, and then worship Him and rejoice in His never ending faithfulness!

**Study** 1 Chronicles 15:1-3, 14-16, 25-29a

**Background** 1 Chronicles 15

**Devotional** 1 Chronicles 16:7-13, 28-33

## Key Verse

Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the Lord with shouting, and with sound of the horn, with trumpets, with loud-sounding cymbals, with harps and lyres (1 Chronicles 15:28).

## Heart of the Lesson

People are joyful and excited when they move into a new building. What is the appropriate way to celebrate? David commanded the priests to invite all the musicians and all the people to join in shouting, singing, and dancing as they rejoiced in what God had done for them.

## Questions for Studying the Text

1. What are some ways that we celebrate big moments? Are there specific things that should or should not be done? What are some things that strike you as noteworthy in the celebration arranged by David in this passage?
2. What do David's preparations for bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem demonstrate about the importance he placed on the Ark? What do they demonstrate about David's relationship with God?
3. What significance had the Ark played in the history of Israel as God's chosen people? What do you think the impact and significance was to the Israelites to see the Ark of the Covenant brought to Jerusalem?
4. Search for passages from the Law that describe some of the ritual involved in the priests and Levites consecrating themselves (v.14). What tensions do you observe between this and the exuberant singing and dancing described in this passage? How does your understanding of God help you to strike a balance between reverence and celebration?
5. What can we learn about worshipping God from this passage? How can we learn to appreciate a diversity of emotional responses in our worship? How can we incorporate a variety of physical activity and sensory input to enhance our corporate worship?

## Understanding and Living

Chris Galarneau

We should keep in mind, as we read from the Chronicles, is that these accounts of Israel's history were written after the exile. The Chronicler (who is unknown to us today) was concerned with inspiring the Israelites to remember their roots and the relationship they had enjoyed with God as His people. The Chronicler had hope and believed the promises of God and wanted his people to do the same. A comparison of this passage with its parallel account in 2 Samuel 6 reveals the Chronicler's desire to show the Israelites that this was their story. His perspective bends to include all of Israel and a strong focus on kingship.

Also note that the event recorded in our passage was the second attempt by David to move the Ark. The first attempt, in chapter 13, stopped short when Uzzah, one of the men charged with driving the cart on which the ark was carried, was struck dead while reaching out his hand to steady the Ark when the oxen pulling the cart stumbled. There was a three-month pause between the first attempt and the second attempt.

### *Preparation*

The first 3 verses of chapter 15 set a tone of preparation. The first thing that stands out is that while David was building his own residences, he was

concurrently preparing a place to house the Ark. The second thing is the warning in verse 2 that only the Levites could carry the Ark, as Israel had been instructed (Deuteronomy 10:8). David had found out 3 months earlier the importance of honoring the methods God had given for the transport and handling of the Ark. This time, he was prepared. The third thing that should catch our eye is that David "assembled all of Israel" to bring the Ark to Jerusalem (v.3). These verses capture the expectation, the reverence, and perhaps the awesome fear that those assembled were feeling.

There was no doubt in the mind of David that this preparation was important. He had great concern for obedience to God in his life. This life of chasing after God was on full display in his approach to moving the Ark of the Covenant. God certainly deserved the adequate respect and reverence that David showed through his actions.

Today, we are invited not just into relationship with God, but because of Christ, we are invited as adopted sons and daughters into God's family. However, God is still the Righteous Creator and deserving of our respect and reverence. We must always remember that God is to be revered and respected above all things.



### ***Orderly Worship***

It is important to see that David was concerned with transporting the Ark the correct way this time. God had set the parameters for how the Ark should be handled. Amongst these was that it was the Levite's job and honor to carry the ark. David's attention to this reminds us that when God sets guidelines within which we must work, we have to pay attention to them. We do not get to just come to God on our own terms, but must always do so according to His parameters.

David made sure the right people were carrying the ark (v.2), that the priests consecrated (made holy or set apart from common use) themselves (v.14), that they used the correct equipment (v.15), and they wore the right things (v.27). In their first attempt to move the Ark, "David and all Israel" had celebrated with all their might and played a variety of instruments (1 Chronicles 13:8). While their intent was not wrong, they did not do it in the right way and suffered the consequences. In this second attempt, David made sure it was the Levites leading things, those who were skilled played the instruments, not everyone. In other words, this effort was informed by the Law. It was not a random expression, but one guided by the truth of what God had commanded.

### ***Joy Filled Worship***

David still displayed his exuberance, excitement, and joy to honor God in bringing the ark to Jerusalem as recorded in verse 25. He did not abandon the desire to worship through music and singing. His intent to celebrate with all of his might and to lead others was a good one and a right one. The Chronicler recorded that as they went along, David was dancing and celebrating. There was a spontaneous and emotion-filled component to their worship as they brought the Ark along. Our worship should be filled with emotion, and it certainly can have spontaneous components as well.

We can safely assume that this was pleasing to God, as it is noted that God went along with them and helped them (v.26). Also, God did not make an outburst (v.13) along their way as He had in their previous attempt (see chapter 13). There are no negative statements against their joy—in fact it is highlighted throughout the passage.

### ***Bringing it Together***

The type of ceremony described in the moving of the ark is foreign to us, as we are living under the New Covenant rather than the Mosaic law. We do not have priests or ephods like they did in those days. We do not offer sacrifices or even have regulated processions. However, these

concepts are not completely unknown to us. Jesus said that true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24). Worship in spirit is that joy-filled exuberance that we see on display in David's enthusiasm and dancing. It is captured in the statement in 1 Chronicles 13:8 that David and all of Israel worshipped with all their might.

We are not called to worship merely in spirit, but in truth as well. Our worship must be informed by the truth of God. For David, this meant the truth of proper handling, care, and respect for how God said the Ark must be handled. Worship without truth is merely an expression of emotion without meaning. On the other side, if you worship in only truth, you will have an emotionless statement without joy, which is neither refreshing nor pleasing. True worship incorporates both emotion and truth. It is that balanced approach that leads to the holiest and purest form of worship.

When David paired these two things together, the Ark was successfully brought to Jerusalem. In their preparation and their worship in truth and spirit, God was truly honored. When we take the time to prepare well for worship and make sure we are worshipping in both spirit and truth, God will be truly honored by our worship as well.

## Hints for Teaching

### *Lesson Goals*

1. Examine the ceremony by which the Ark was brought to Jerusalem.
2. Appreciate the diversity of emotional responses that flow from authentic worship.
3. Embrace physical activity and sensory input as important aspects of worship.

### *Teaching Activity*

Ask participants to recall worship experiences that evoked diverse emotional responses. What happened that led to those varying responses? Compare and contrast current Christian worship celebrations with this significant celebration in the lives of God's people. Discuss ways we can worship that involve all of our senses. Plan a worship celebration involving music, movement, and other sensory experiences.

### **Looking Forward**

We considered the joyful, worship celebration of Israel as they transported the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem. Next, we will learn to thank God for His greatness and provision as David did at the Ark celebration.

## 2. A Heart Filled with Gratitude

1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 28-36

### Daily Bible Meditations

Angie Osborn

#### Sunday

**Isaiah 45:20-25**

The Lord calls *all* men and women to worship Him. In this passage, the Lord points out that “other gods” and idols cannot save—only He can because He is the one true God. Isaiah 45 is a good reminder for us to take stock in where we place our faith. Do we rely on gods that cannot save (money, job, love, you fill in the blank)? Or are we truly putting our faith and trust in the one true God? In our fast-paced world, it is easy to get distracted and let “idols” sit on the heart’s throne. As you worship the one and only true God today, put your faith wholly in Him, knowing that He is the Lord of all!

#### Monday

**Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

God laid out a plan for the Israelites to give the first portion of their harvest back to Him. In this example, giving of tithes and first fruits is also tied to remembering. The Israelites were reminded of how God had faithfully provided for all their needs and that He would continue to do so. Our God is a generous God. We may not always recognize His generosity as we go through our everyday lives. But as we look back, we can see that He faithfully provides. As you give back to God with your tithes and offerings, remember all He has given you, reflect on all He has done in your life...and thank Him.

#### Tuesday

**Psalms 105:1-15**

My Bible titles Psalm 105 as “The Eternal Faithfulness of the Lord.” Take a moment and reflect just on that title. We serve a God who is, indeed, eternally faithful. In this passage, the psalmist reminded the people of God’s mighty deeds. Remembering God’s past miracles and faithfulness encourages us as believers to continue to trust Him and remain loyal to Him. The Bible is full of encouraging examples of God’s forgiveness, His provision, His love, and His faithfulness. Take some time to reflect on His eternal faithfulness in your life today and rejoice in His love!

#### Wednesday

**Psalms 106:40-48**

Psalm 106 details Israel’s rebellion and God’s divine compassion once again. Over and over, God provided for the Israelites.

Over and over, the Israelites got distracted or frustrated and turned away. It is easy to think, “Oh those Israelites, when will they learn?” But could the same be said for each of us? Over and over, God provides and remains faithful. Over and over, I doubt, try to control my own destiny, and rebel against Him. Thankfully, God forgives those sins through Jesus Christ! I am able to confess those sins and praise God for His faithfulness, despite my stubbornness; and He continues to love me and pour out His blessings!

### **Thursday**

### **1 Chronicles 16:14-18**

These verses are a part of a passage where David was offering thanksgiving to the Lord. In verse 15, we are reminded that God’s covenant is forever and spans over a thousand generations. God has made a covenant with each of us as we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. His covenant is filled with promises and offers forgiveness for our sins. He has provided a way for us to be in close relationship with Him, through Christ. Today, reflect on what that covenant really means in your life and take time to thank Him for His love and faithfulness!

### **Friday**

### **1 Chronicles 16:28-36**

David continued his offering of thanks to the Lord in these verses. As we read his praises, we are reminded that God’s love is steadfast and forever. As children of our Heavenly Father, we can rejoice! Our God does not waiver in His love for us. He does not give up on us when we make poor choices. His love for each of us began before Creation and continues for eternity! Like David, we can praise the Lord, for He is good! Reflect today on His love for you. As you do, thank Him, praise Him, and share your story!

### **Sabbath**

### **1 Chronicles 16:8-13, 19-27**

We serve an amazing, loving God! He has indeed done wondrous deeds for all people! It is amazing that the God who created the universe has made Himself available to all people. He has provided a way for us to have a relationship with Him through Jesus. He promises to provide for our needs and that He will remain faithful. The Bible is full of examples of His love and commitment to those who willingly go to Him. Our lives are also filled with examples of His works! Take time this Sabbath to remember His works in your life and confidently share your experiences of His love with others!

**Study** 1 Chronicles 16:8-12, 28-36

**Background** 1 Chronicles 16:7-36

**Devotional** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

## Key Verse

Oh give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples (1 Chronicles 16:8).

## Heart of the Lesson

People easily get discouraged when looking at turbulent conditions in the world. How can we find courage to face these problems? David's people sang a psalm of thanksgiving and a psalm of worship to God for all the great things He had done for them and for the greatness of His being.

## Questions for Studying the Text

1. What things going on in the world today are discouraging to you or people you know? How do you typically respond to discouraging events or conditions? What has helped you to find courage in the past?
2. What event was being celebrated by David and Israel in 1 Corinthians 16? Given what you know about the history of the Ark of the Covenant, how were the commands to seek the Lord's strength and presence (v.11) appropriate? What would the memory of the Ark mean to people reading this during Israel's exile?
3. Compare the "song of David" (v.8-36) with the psalms where its words appear (Psalm 105:1-15; 96:1-13; 106:1, 47-48). Why do you think the Chronicler chose to record those specific parts of the psalms David likely sang? What do they reveal about his purpose in recounting these events?
4. What events from Israel's history were included in their song of celebration? How would revisiting those events help the Israelites in their celebration? How would being reminded of them help the exiled Israelites?
5. What events can you look back to in your life as evidence of God's hand at work? How does remembering them bring hope and courage in the midst of discouragement? What are some specific ways you can celebrate those events?



## Understanding and Living

Chris Galarneau

The book of 1 Chronicles is largely historical narrative and is easy to understand in typical narrative story format. Remember that the Chronicler recorded the events of Israel's history, some of which are paralleled in 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings, from a vantage point of looking back from some time after Israel's exile. In 1 Chronicles, he focused on David's impact and accomplishments, rather than his foibles and failures—though they were recorded elsewhere. The Chronicler's goal was to remind the people of his day who they were and what God had done for them in hopes of inspiring confidence in them that He could (and would) do them again.

Our passage from 1 Chronicles 16 was preceded by a momentous event in King David's rule, which we examined last week—the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. The Ark, to the Israelites, was more than a symbol. It was a reminder and a representation of God's presence amongst them and a place where they as a nation had traditionally experienced the manifestation of God. The arrival of the Ark in Jerusalem was a time for exuberant worship! Today we will take a look at a continuation of that

story. The Ark had been brought to Jerusalem and placed inside the tent that David had prepared for it. Burnt offerings and peace offerings were given and the people were given a blessing by David.

### *A Call to Action*

As we pick up in verse 8, keep in mind the amount of activity that had preceded the start of the song that was sung. All of Israel was celebrating and worshiping God—giving thanks and praise—as the Ark made its way to the tent. A lot of action had taken place and now the activity was ramping down, but the worshipful joy, awe, and wonder of the people had not.

The first four verses of this song are laden with calls to action. “Oh give thanks...call upon His name...Make known” (v.8), “Sing to Him...sing praises...Speak” (v.9), “Glory in...be glad” (v.10), “Seek” (v.11), “Remember” (v.12). Though there is a clear emphasis on action and activity, that action was not directed at the singers, but rather was a call to focus their hearts and actions on God. Verse 8 starts with “give thanks to the LORD,” and “make known His deeds.” These beginning statements give a framework for the song. First, we give thanks and we do that by singing, seeking,

glorying, speaking, and remembering. Second, we are propelled by a heart of thanks to proclaim who God is and what He has done.

When someone gives us a gift, there is often a series of events that happen afterwards to express our gratitude. We may, upon opening the gift, let out some kind of excited sound—a gasp, a little squeak, a laugh, or one of many others. Next, we typically verbally say, “Thank you,” and may even give the person a hug. You may, even days after the fact, send a thank you card to the person to ensure they know that you are grateful. There is a lot of action in the ways we give thanks, even in our relationships with other people. It should be no surprise, then, that David called for a series of actions—actions of worship—to express our thanks to God.

### ***A Call to Remember***

Verse 12 transitions from calling for actions from the worshiper to God to calling the listener to remember the times when God had interceded for and delivered them. For the original audience, this was the reminder that God had led Abraham to the Promised Land and had established an everlasting covenant with Abraham’s descendants. This was an important reminder of an everlasting covenant for a

people that had been taken from the land of promise.

When David wrote this song, he called back to the times of the Patriarchs—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—who received God’s promise, but did not get to see the nation that would come from them. Even though they did not see the fulfillment, they felt the blessings of the covenant. They wandered and were not harmed and saw that God was with them. For his readers in exile, this was a reminder that God was still with them and that there was still hope for them.

Today, we can read (or sing) this song with the same hope. We have an everlasting covenant with God, sealed with the blood of Jesus. We not only have the promise that God is with us, but that we have the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and guide us. We can join in this song too, because we are all adopted sons and daughters of God and this is the history of His people and His actions in the world!

### ***A Call to Proclaim***

In verse 23, the song transitions again, this time from remembrance to proclaiming. Israel was to be the shining beacon in the night, shining out the greatness of God as well as the futility of the idols the people of the world worshiped.

We might think of idolatry only as people praying to statues or images. It is that, but there are other forms of idolatry we might fall into today. Idolatry can be giving priority to anything above God. It is not as far removed from our lives as we often think—career, wealth, and fame top the charts of idolatry today. The need for God in people's lives is just as great today—we need saving from our useless idols as much now as they did then.

This song gives a clear call to make the name of God great among all people. This same charge is echoed in the Great Commission. This mission also rings out, week in and week out, in God's gathered family all around the globe. When we truly see God's greatness—when we see His splendor and His beauty—we will be filled up with praise for Him.

Recognizing God's actions in our lives should drive us to give thanks—to worship and honor Him. Then, it should drive us to remember that God was in every step of the journey; we should remember that we are part of a larger story; and that should drive us to share this amazing news with as many as we can. How can you make God's name known where you are today?

## Hints for Teaching

### *Lesson Goals*

1. Analyze the psalm sung when David brought the Ark to Jerusalem.
2. Rejoice in the wonderful things God has done on behalf of His people.
3. Express thanks for God's greatness and provision.

### *Teaching Activity*

Have the group make a list of attributes of God highlighted in 1 Chronicles 16:8-36. What other attributes of God can you list? How can remembering these attributes of God help us overcome discouragement in turbulent circumstances? Invite participants to share personal experiences where this happened for them. Using David's prayer in 1 Chronicles 16:8-36 as a model, write personal prayers of thanksgiving to God for His acts of faithfulness and deliverance.

### **Looking Forward**

We examined the way David recounted the wonderful attributes of God in his celebration of moving the Ark. Next, we will ponder how we should respond when God's plan for our lives does not match the way we expected to serve Him.