

**Small Group Material - David 4**  
**David: seeking God's glory**  
**2 Samuel 5: 1-12, 2 Samuel 6: 1-15**

*Groups could choose either 2 Sam 5 OR 6 for a shorter bible study. Either work as stand alone studies (on the same theme), you just get more depth by doing both! I have italicised the second one for ease. For a very short bible reflection, see the covering email.*

**Welcome:** (10 mins) Can you think of a time when you tried to do something really helpful/kind and then accidentally got it wrong? Or a time when you forgot to follow the instructions on something and it didn't go to plan?

**Worship:** (10 mins) Read Psalm 68 (personally or corporately) and then pray into the words.

**Word:** 2 Samuel 5: 1-12, 2 Samuel 6: 1-15

(15 mins) You could begin by reading the first passage (2 Sam 5:1-12)

V1-2 What do the tribes of Israel recognise and respect about David in his leadership? How had David brought about unity among God's people?

V 3-5 Although this is the third time David is anointed, what is different this time? (2 other times – 1 Samuel 16:13, Judah 2:4)  
David waited a long time for this promised anointing, what do we think God had been doing in and through him during this time?

V 6-10 Why is it remarkable that David conquered Jerusalem with such ease? How did he do it/what makes David so successful in his conquest?

V 11-12 What is David's success and power built on? How easy is it to recognise that our 'greatness' comes from God alone? What prevents us from giving him the glory?

*(20 mins) Read 2 Samuel 6: 1-15*

*You could start by establishing what the Ark is by asking your group if anyone knows. Exodus 37 describes the making of the box. (The metric size is 1.15 m long, 68 cm wide and 68 cm high.) Inside the box, were the tablets of the law that Moses brought down from Mount Sinai, a jar of manna, and Aaron's rod.*

*V 1-2 – David gathered all the young able men of Israel for this job. Why do you think bringing the Ark to Jerusalem was so important to David?  
What sense do we get about the importance of the Ark in these first two verses?  
What does the Ark represent for the Israelites?*

*Flick back to 1 Sam 6:21 – 7:2 After the Philistines had captured the Ark and it had been retrieved where did it go and for how long?  
Why do you think David is retrieving it and putting it in a place of prominence?*

*V3-5 What is the general mood in this section?*

*V6-8 In Numbers 4: 5-15 – (if you have time you can flick back, but it isn't integral to the study) there are strict instructions regarding the moving of the Ark and other sacred items. Crucially, no-one should ever touch the Ark.  
What context does this give us for verses 6 and 7?  
What were the intentions of Uzzah and Ahio?  
Is God's response surprising to you at all?  
Is David's anger in verse 8 justified?*

*V9-13*

*After David's anger has worn off, what does he do in response to what has just happened in verses 6 and 7?  
What sense do we get that David is being taught by God in this moment and through the error he made earlier?  
David fears the lord here - Is this good? Should we fear God?  
How does God give David a second chance?  
David takes the Ark to the house of Obed-Edom (This is a family within the tribe of Levi that God commanded to carry and take care of the ark (Numbers 4:15).  
In obeying God's word what happens to this household?*

*V14-15 Is it surprising to us that David worships so exuberantly as a King? What can we learn from his attitude of worship here?*

**Witness:** (15 mins) Prayers for The Branch –

Give thanks for: Donations from Boots of plenty of body lotions and from Costa of food goodies, plus offer from Soho Farmhouse to provide 10 meals a week.

Pray for:

The yurt, that it does enable more meetings with those who benefit from some support, such as 1 to 1s with young people and those attending the freedom course. The health of the staff team.

Pray for the vaccination roll out as it continues at a high pace, especially for the Health Centre staff working lots of extra hours and under pressure.