



Lesson 9:

ARK OF THE COVENANT



TEACHING GOAL: God is with us.

1. Play theme song
2. Pray
3. Review last lesson
4. Lesson and discussion
5. Memorize: **God gave us the ark to say, “I am with you every day.”**
6. Close in prayer



SCRIPTURE: Exodus 25:10-22 God gave Moses specific instructions for building the ark of the covenant.

Deuteronomy 10:1-5 God told Moses to put the Ten Commandments into the ark of the covenant.

Joshua 3:14-17 The ark symbolized God’s presence and went before the people as they obeyed God.

1 Samuel 6:1-16 God designed the ark to be for the Israelites. When it was taken by the Philistines, the Israelites could hardly wait to get it back.

1 Kings 8:1-13 Solomon built the temple and welcomed the ark to its new home.

Revelation 11:19 In John’s vision in Revelation, the ark of the covenant was in heaven.



MATERIALS: Large cardboard box (refrigerator or wardrobe)
Two broom handles
Utility knife
Gold spray paint
Bible

Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

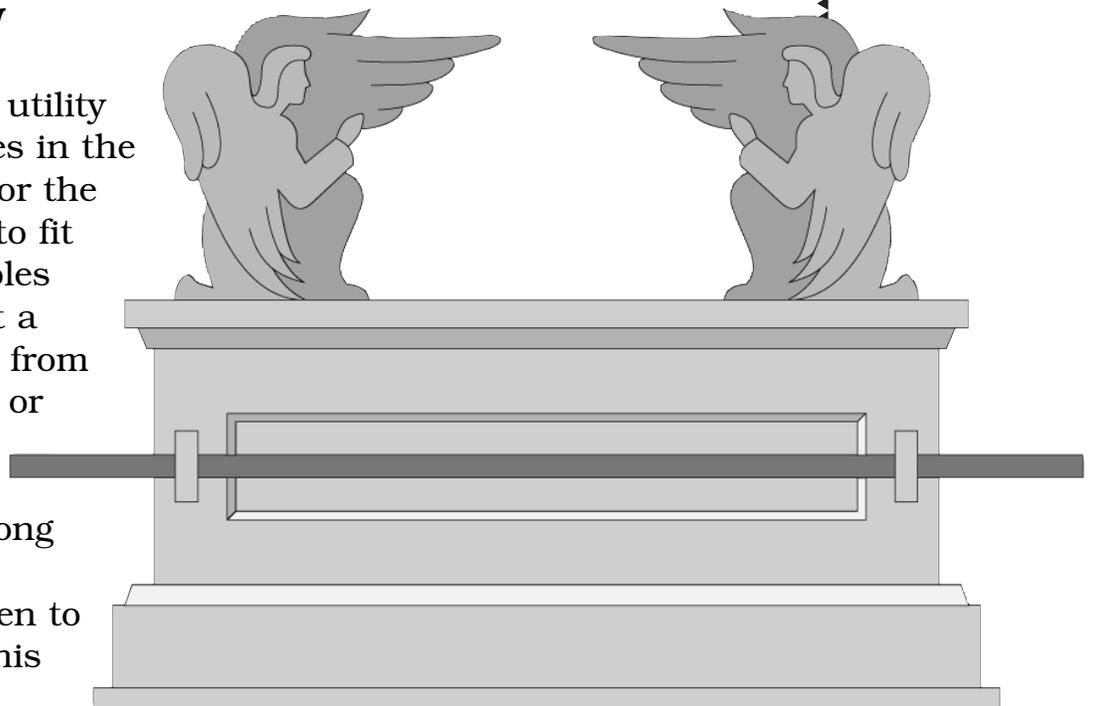
A Big Idea

Describe the ark of the covenant by reading a few of the scriptures so that your family can hear about the ark. Exodus contains the directions for building the ark. Then you may choose to tell your children this summary: **God gave Moses directions to build an ark—but this ark wasn't a boat, it was a special treasure box. The ark of the covenant was a symbol of God's presence and the Israelites carried it with them for many years. They even put it in a special place of honor. The ark contained items to remind people of what God had done.**

Three items we know were in the ark of the covenant: The Ten Commandment tablets (Deuteronomy 10:2), **Aaron's staff** (Numbers 17:10), **and a jar of manna** (Exodus 16:34). **Why were these put in the ark?** So the people would remember what God had done for them.

B Activity

Parents use the utility knife to cut holes in the cardboard box for the broom handles to fit through. The holes should be about a third of the way from the top and two or three inches from the sides on each of the long ends of the box. Allow the children to paint the box (this may need to be done outside) and decorate it to look like a fancy gold treasure box.



Lesson 9

While building the ark, ask your children what it might have been like for the Israelites to build their ark. **What do you think the Israelites were thinking about when they built the ark?** It cost a lot of money. God likes nice things. This box must be very special. **How heavy might the ark have been if it was made of gold?** Very. **How might the people feel who had to carry it around?** Important. Special. Tired.

When the box is complete and dry, sit around it and discuss the following questions: **Why do you think God wanted Moses to build the ark of the covenant?** To remind the Israelites of God's presence. So people wouldn't forget God. **What are ways we are reminded of God's presence today?** We learn about God at church. When we read the Bible we remember God. We talk to God when we pray.

After making the ark, ask each child to find two things in their rooms that remind them of God. They may choose a children's Bible, picture of Mom and Dad, Bible story book, or something completely different. Ask them why they chose that item and have them put it in the ark. **In the same way manna, the staff, and the Ten Commandments reminded the Israelites about what God had done, these items remind us of God.**

The Israelites carried the ark around on poles. We are going to march around the outside of the house carrying our ark.

Application

The Israelites were easily fooled into following false gods during the time Moses was leading them. But the ark of the covenant became a visible reminder that God was with them, even when they felt alone or separated from God. When Jesus came to earth many years later, he opened up the door to a personal relationship with God—so now we know God is near because he is in our hearts.