David assembled a group of select soldiers of Israel, thirty thousand strong, to bring God’s chest to Jerusalem. They loaded God’s chest on a new cart. The people treated the chest special because it was the holy presence of God. David and the entire house of Israel celebrated in the LORD’s presence with all their strength, with songs, zithers, harps, tambourines, rattles, and cymbals.

Along the way to Jerusalem, the oxen pulling the cart stumbled. A man walking by the cart reached out to steady God’s Chest. One of the rules God gave to Moses was that no one could touch the chest because it was holy. If they did, they would die. When the man died, David was frightened. “How will I ever bring the LORD’s chest to me?” he asked.

So David didn’t take the chest to Jerusalem. Instead, he had it put in the house of a man from Gath. The LORD’s chest stayed in this house for three months, and the LORD blessed the man’s household and all that he had.

King David was told about the blessings on the household because of God’s chest being there. So David went and brought God’s chest up from Gath to Jerusalem with celebration. David, dressed in a linen priestly vest, danced with all his strength before the LORD. This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the LORD’s chest with shouts and trumpet blasts.

The LORD’s chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered sacrifices and blessed the people in the name of the LORD. He gave all the people of Israel a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.

(Based on 2 Samuel 6:1-19)
How Did David Praise God? – Puzzle (Preschool)

David led the parade when they brought God’s chest to Jerusalem. He danced with all his might to show praise to God. Color the picture of David dancing.
Dancing for God – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

Choose words from the Word Bank at the bottom to fill in the spaces. Some words will be used more than once. Check your answers by looking up the verses in your Bible.

Psalm 149:3
Let them _____ God’s name with _____;
let them _____ God’s _____
with the _____ and lyre!

Psalm 150:4
_____ God with drum and _____!
Praise _____ with ______ and pipe!

2 Samuel 6:14
_____, dressed in a linen ________ vest,
_______ with all his ________
before the _____.

Word Bank: LORD, David, dance, danced, God, praise, strings, priestly, sing, drum, strength
Hidden Pictures – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Look carefully at your picture of David dancing and find 12 hidden objects.

LAMB
APPLE
BIRD
DOG
DONKEY
TOP HAT
PALM TREE
BALLOONS
LOAF OF BREAD
SNEAKERS
BASEBALL BAT
PUMPKIN
### Paper Plate Cymbals
- two paper plates
- gold poster paint
- gold ribbon
- paintbrush
- pencil
- glue gun
- coins or metal washers
  - Use a pencil to punch 2 holes in the center part of each plate about 3 inches apart.
  - Paint both sides of the 2 plates gold.
  - Cut 2 gold ribbon strips about 10 inches long.
  - Insert the ends of the ribbons into the holes. Tie them together on the top side of the plates.
  - Glue small coins or metal washers around the edges of the top side of the plates.
  - Allow the glue to dry before playing.

### Tin Can Drums
- some empty, clean tin cans
- balloons
- elastic bands
- chopsticks/sticks
  - Make sure the tin can has smooth edges (you can buy tin openers that open tins without leaving a sharp edge).
  - Cut the end off the balloon and simply stretch over the end of the tin.
  - Secure the balloon with an elastic band.
  - Use sticks to play your drums.

### Pot Bell
- terra-cotta pot
- rope
- large jingle bell
- stick with soft filling taped around the end
  - Turn the pot upside down. Cut a 1' length of rope and run the center up though the hole in the pot from the inside.
  - Thread a large jingle bell on the rope inside before you tie the knot.
  - Tie the ends together to form a knot that is large enough to not slip through the hole.
  - Hold the loop-end of the rope and strike the pot with a soft mallet.

### Paper Plate Tambourine
- paper plate
- paint
- single-hole punch
- thin red ribbon
- gold jingle bells
- glue
  - Paint the top side of your plate.
  - When it is dry, fold it in half, with the painted side facing out.
  - Punch holes around the arc of the plate. Make sure the two sides are lined up and the holes go through both sides.
  - Cut some short sections of ribbon and thread them through the bells. Tie the ribbons to the holes you punched, not too tight so they will be loose enough to jingle.
  - Glue the inside edges of the plate together.
**Ingredients**

- small round crackers
- small square crackers
- graham crackers
- icing
- colorful fruit strips
- pretzel sticks

**Directions**

- Make a frame for the tabernacle using stick pretzels and graham crackers.
- Cover the frame with colorful fruit strips
- Use a small round cracker for the wash basin.
- Use a small square cracker for the altar.
- Build a fence around all of it using graham crackers held together with icing.
Dancing for God

2 Samuel 6:1-19
The Israelites had a place to worship, but the chest of God wasn’t there. King David knew it was important to bring the chest to Jerusalem. He organized a big parade so everyone would see the chest enter Jerusalem. He led the parade, and he danced with all his might to praise God. People playing instruments followed David, and the priests carrying the chest came next. The Israelites celebrated because they were very happy to have God’s chest in their place of worship. David offered sacrifices to God. Then he blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

Verse of the Month
Shout triumphantly to the LORD, all the earth!
Psalm 100:1

What Do You Think?
The Israelites treated the chest with respect, because it was where they felt God’s presence. Do you have a place where you feel God’s presence? Have you ever been so happy you couldn’t sit still? Did you dance for joy?

Family Activity
How do you as a family worship God? Do you have a place in your home where you feel God’s presence? Dance together with joy and celebrate how good God is.

Prayer
Dear God, thank you for always being with us. We celebrate your love and your presence in our lives; in Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.