

WEEK 2

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Following God is
the best game plan.

BIBLE

David and the Ark:
2 Samuel 6:12–22

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Not only do coaches need a good strategy, but they have to place their players in the right field positions. This week, we'll explore the story of David and The Ark and see how God gave David a specific role in leadership. As he celebrated while some disapproved, David's dedication to God's plan reminds us that **following God is the best game plan.**

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Coach Says

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you will need space for the kids to move around. It's a leveled-up version of "Simon Says." Have all the kids stand up. The coach will call out different actions (jumping jacks, toe touches, marching in place, jumping up and down, jogging in place). Lead the kids to only do what "Coach Says" and stand still when you don't say "Coach Says." When kids misstep or do not follow what "Coach Says," they can stay in the game and keep trying!*
- In this game, you have to listen really hard to the coach. Sometimes you might have wanted to do something other than what "Coach Says."
- You may have different coaches, but we have one coach who we should always listen to. **Wanna know who? God!**
- Today's story is about God's game plan for us. God wants us to follow God's game plan!

ACTIVITY | Follow The Team Captain

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Lead the kids in a game of "Follow the Team Captain." Begin by being the "team captain" and lead the kids around the room doing different actions. Consider doing different sports actions, such as swimming, running, and pretending to throw a ball. Let a few of the kids take turns being the captain, also.*
- **Was it easy or hard to follow the captain? Why?**
- Every sports team has a team captain. The team captain helps all the players work together. When you are the team captain, you will have teammates who don't want to follow you. But you have to do what is best for the team, even if some people might get upset.
- In today's Bible story, King David does something for God that some people thought was a bad idea. But David chose to follow God anyway!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 2 Samuel 6:12–22 (David and the Ark)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below!
- Our story today starts with David. He was the new king of a land called Israel. David followed God, and he knew God's plan was always the best plan.
- **Let's all say, "God's plan is the best plan!"**
- David wanted the ark of God to go where God wanted. The ark was a special box that helped God's people remember that God is super great. It showed everybody how powerful God was. For years, the ark was kept in somebody's house.
 - **Was that God's plan?** No! God's plan was for the ark to stay with God's people. And God's plan was the best plan!
 - But now that David was king, the ark was coming back! David was going to bring it back to God's people!
 - **Everybody say, "Yay!"**
- So one day, the ark was brought into the city. As David followed God's ark, he was dancing and singing.
 - **Show me your best moves!** Wow! Amazing moves, everybody!
 - David was so excited to be following God's plan that he didn't even notice that some of his clothes had fallen off!
- But not everybody liked David's dancing.
 - **Everyone ask, "Like who?"**
 - David was married to a woman named Michal. David's dancing was a little silly for Michal. She didn't think that kings should dance that way. She thought a king should be super duper serious.
 - **Show me your very serious face.**
 - She told David he should calm down a little. But David told her God's plan was worth celebrating, even if you look a little silly! He said he didn't care what anyone thought ... he was going to follow God no matter what! That's how good God's plan is!
- David knew God's plan was the best plan, and that was worth dancing about. Following God's plan should make us all want to dance!

BIG IDEA | Following God is the best game plan.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play an upbeat sports-themed track ([like this](#)) and have kids chant the Big Idea by repeating small chunks after you while doing the hand motions below. Consider providing pom-poms, noisemakers, or foam fingers for kids to enjoy the sports theme even more!
- In any sports game, players need to follow the coach's game plan. We all have the best coach—God! God has the best game plan!
- Let's find out what's in God's game plan for us. Drumroll please ... (Lead the kids in a drumroll.)
 - **Following** (March in place.)
 - **God** (Point up.)
 - **is the best** (Two thumbs up.)
 - **game plan.** (Open palms like a book.)

VIDEO | Teaching Video, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](https://vimeo.com/935646751/00540c5a8c). (https://vimeo.com/935646751/00540c5a8c) If you're short on time, show the illustrated [Bible story video](https://vimeo.com/996228346/8eea492324). (https://vimeo.com/996228346/8eea492324)

ACTIVITY | Story Statues

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, play music and have the kids dance. When you pause the music, have the kids freeze in certain poses to reenact different parts of the story. Make sure you demonstrate each pose for them.
- **Everybody freeze with a sad face!** The ark of God was far away from the people.
- **Everybody freeze like you're so excited!** Now that David was king, he was following God's plans to bring the ark back to the people.

- **Everybody freeze with both arms over one shoulder like you're carrying the ark!** The ark was brought into the city. There was a big celebration. David danced because he was so happy.
- **Everybody freeze with your arms crossed.** Michal did not like David dancing so wildly in front of everyone. David said he would follow God no matter what anybody said!
- Great statues everybody! Now let's just dance around like David did!
- **Following God is the best game plan.**

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always being with me. Help me follow you no matter what. I want to be on your team every day. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide a mini soccer ball and have the kids' chairs form a circle. Start with the ball yourself, then ask the first question and pass the ball with your feet to the person who wants to answer. Keep the ball moving around with all who wish to share. Roll the ball for younger kids.
- **Why was the kingdom celebrating?** David brought the ark back to be with God's people.
- **What did David do when the ark of God came into the city?** David danced.
- **Who was unhappy about David's dancing?** Michal.
- **How can we follow God, too?** Talk to God, learn more about God, love others, listen to others who follow God.
- **Following who is the best game plan?** God.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 33:11 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."**