



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Four

In week four of our series The Comeback, Pastor Mark asked if there are signs of God's presence that are prime for a return to the center of our lives. In his early days as king, David worked to bring back the ark of the covenant and place it in the center of his new kingdom. It was a reminder of God's faithfulness and a sign of God's presence.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture. Follow the daily prayer prompt and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God,
Thank you for your steadfast presence with me.
I invite you to return to your rightful place in the center of my life.
Return to me the joy of your salvation.
Return to me signs of your presence.
Return to me.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: 2 SAMUEL 6.1-5

David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand.² He and all his men went to Baalah in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark.³ They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart⁴ with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it.⁵ David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with castanets, harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

- David had recently been installed as the new king of Israel. He remembered what others had not—that the ark of the covenant served as an important reminder of God's saving work and of

God's very presence. When was the last time you felt like dancing and celebrating just because of who God is?

- *Thank God for his patience with you when you have ignored God's ways of revealing himself to you.*

TUESDAY: 2 SAMUEL 6.6-7

When they came to the threshing floor of Nazon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled.⁷ The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.

- This is a hard teaching. Uzzah was participating in an act of transportation instead of an act of worship. The ark was not meant to be carried on a cart that could tip over. But because it was, Uzzah's reflexes led him to reach out and protect the holiness of God. Anything that puts us in a position to prop up God is unhealthy.
- *Ask God to guide and humble you as you walk alongside his holiness.*

WEDNESDAY: 2 SAMUEL 6.14-15

Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the LORD with all his might,¹⁵ while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

- In the second leg of the trip towards Jerusalem, David celebrated at a new level. He removed his kingly garb and let loose in response to the return of the signs of God's presence. What would it mean for you to do *anything* before the Lord with all your might?
- *Pray for boldness and unabashed joy in your worship of God.*

THURSDAY: 2 SAMUEL 6.18-19

After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty.¹⁹ Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

- This line puts a bow on the return of the ark of the covenant to the central location among God's people. This wasn't payment for taking part in the celebration, this was a reminder of God's provision. Having received what they needed, the people were able to go about their daily lives, knowing that God was at the center of it all.
- *Pray over the food you eat and the shelter you enjoy--be reminded that they flow from the goodness of God.*

FRIDAY: EXODUS 25.8

have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

- God chose to dwell among his people. This is a profound declaration from God. God has reason to be so disappointed with his creation that he would leave it (us) to our own devices. Instead God chooses to dwell with us. When we have a hard time receiving this (receiving Jesus) God gives us physical signs.
- *Pray through the physical signs that God chooses to remain present with you.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 132.13-15

*For the LORD has chosen Zion,
he has desired it for his dwelling, saying,
¹⁴ "This is my resting place for ever and ever;
here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it.
¹⁵ I will bless her with abundant provisions;
her poor I will satisfy with food.*

- These words were written later in the Psalms. They echo the things we have learned about God in the story of 2 Samuel. God desires to be in the center of our lives. God desires to be enthroned in our hearts forever. And God will provide for us and satisfy us.
- *Pray through these words from this week's message and apply them to yourself. The Lord has chosen you. The Lord desires to dwell in you. The Lord will provide abundantly.*

- See reverse for Small Group Discussion -

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Mark shared the story of a follower of Jesus who had a difficult time believing in the forgiveness he has received in Christ, and in the presence of God with him. He was able to recall the signs of God's presence in his life, and is holding on to those promises while he faces a terminal diagnosis. Are there times when you forget about the presence of God, and even neglect those things that remind you of God's faithfulness? What are the signs that you can hold on to?