

Introduction: Brief History of the Ark of the Covenant

- What is the Ark? It represented the very _____ of God with His _____.
- Built in the days of _____ and brought into Promised Land
- Kept safely in the tabernacle for _____ years...
- until I Samuel 4, when it is brought into battle & captured
- Philistines are _____ and send it back into Israel
- It ends up at the house of Abinadab for a few decades and it is _____ during the reign of King Saul

I. King David Tries to Get the Ark into Jerusalem

David wants to show Israel what really matters more than anything else is to put God at the _____ of his _____. So, right away they would bring the ark to Jerusalem.

Verse 3 - "We did not inquire of the ark during the reign of Saul."
_____ had just left the ark at the house of Abinadab and never made an effort to get it back.

David realizes why they did it all _____ the first time.

I Chronicles 15:13 "It was because you, the Levites, did not bring it up the first time that the Lord our God broke out in anger against us. We did not inquire of him about how to do it in the prescribed way."

II. How Do We Put God's Presence at the Center of our Lives?

1) Seek God's presence as our _____.

For us today to put God's presence at the center means to constantly seek the _____ of the _____.

2) To consider our _____ and reasons for wanting God's presence near to us.

It is very common to only want God when God could be _____ to me. To _____ God in order to try to get something else _____ God.

3) We need to seek God's presence with _____ and according to His _____.

- For us the right way to approach God is through the _____ as our _____.

- This also means that the way to the presence of God is through _____, as we recognize our _____ and our need for a Savior.

- Like David went back to and learned how to correctly move the ark, so we also are people who need to seek God's presence as He tells us _____ to in the _____.

Conclusion:

Just because God is everywhere doesn't mean that we are always _____ as connected with God. To be connected with God, we need to be _____ believers who _____ seek God.