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THE HOLINESS OF GOD IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE.

Inspire (for parents)

“God’s holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable ... Holy is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard” (Tozer, A.W. *The Knowledge of the Holy*).

As hard as I try, I cannot think of a story about my children that relates to God’s holiness that doesn’t make me sad. So let me tell you what I wish I had done: I wish I had sometimes talked about God in hushed tones; I wish I had taught them how to handle the Bible with more reverence; I wish I hadn’t overused the word “awesome” for things that don’t even relate to God; I wish I had pointed out the times when I was overwhelmed by the otherness of God; I wish I had taught that “holy” is a word reserved for God.

The holiness of God is incomprehensible. It is so hard for us to explain, but that doesn’t mean

we shouldn’t try being holy. God, in His grace, gives us glimpses into His holiness all the time. As parents, we need to pray that we will have the eyes to see those moments, and the wisdom to explain them to our children. We need to establish boundaries on how we talk about God. We can demonstrate respect for Him and His Word. And, when those moments of awe grip us, we can model for our families reverence and worship. Only God is holy. God’s holiness requires our worship.

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Getting Started

Scripture: 1 Samuel 16—17; 2 Samuel 6
(King David Dances)

Main Point: God’s Presence Inspires Worship

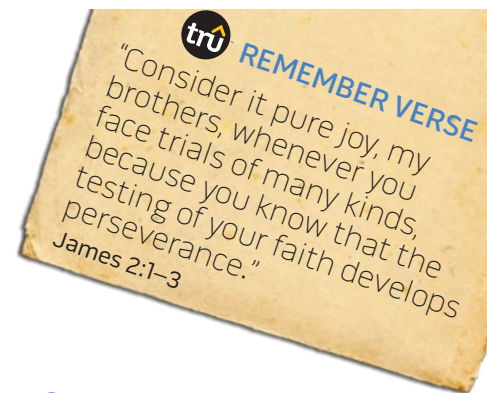
This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God’s Word **before your children attend church**. Because God’s plan is for parents to be the spiritual nurturers of their children’s faith, we know that as you grow spiritually, your children will grow spiritually as well.

Equip (for parents)

David understood, better than most, that God’s presence inspires devoted worship. After David and his men had defeated the Philistines in 2 Samuel 5, they retrieved the ark of the covenant, and “David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets” (2 Samuel 6:14–15).

King David and his men removed the ark from Kiriath-Jearim, a city located about nine miles from Jerusalem. The ark had remained in Kiriath-Jearim for 20 years, under the care of Abinadab’s son, Eleazar, who had been sanctified to keep it (1 Samuel 7:1–2). Before this, the ark was in a city named Beth-Shemesh, where the Philistines left it seven months after they took it in battle (1 Samuel 6). They returned the ark because, while it was in their possession, many terrible things had happened to their people, such as tumors, boils, and rats.

In light of these events, it is clear why “David ... danced before the LORD with all his might ... while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets” (2 Samuel 6:14–15). The ark had been captured many times by the Philistines and had been disregarded by the people once it was back inside of Israel’s borders. But now, after all of the time away, the ark—the symbol of God’s holiness and glory—was being brought back to its rightful place of honor. God was pleased as He watched King David lead the worshipful procession. ☺



Support

(for parents & kids)

➤ **JUST FOR FUN**, find some margin in your schedule to create a quiet time. Gather your family together and put on your favorite worship CD. Take out a Bible and share with your children that the Bible is God’s holy Word. Talk in hushed tones and ask them to tell you ways they can worship God.

We often think of worship as only singing, but we can worship God in many different ways: prayer, silence, art, dance, giving, sharing, and thanksgiving, just to name a few.

After discussing ways to worship God, pray together and ask God to speak to you from His Word. Read **2 Samuel, chapter 6**. After reading this part of The Big God Story, discuss with your family why they think David was leaping and dancing. Ask them why David would offer sacrifices to the Lord, and discuss ways your family can sacrifice as an act of worship toward God.

When you are finished reading the passage and talking with your children, share with them that what they just heard is a part of The Big God Story in the Bible, and they will hear it in church this week. Close your time by telling God that you will worship Him because He is holy. ☺