

FEAR – Week 3

Having the right view of God's perfect authority, justice, and grace



“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases Him, and love Him and serve Him with all your heart and soul.”
DEUTERONOMY 10:12 (NLT)

LEADER DEVO

READ 2 Samuel 6:1-15. Do you think Uzzah's punishment was too severe? What does your answer say about your view of God's holiness and justice? Based on this story, does God want your good intentions or your obedience? Which shows fear of the Lord?

DID YOU KNOW? 1 Samuel 5 tells of when the Philistines captured the Ark and brought it into their own temple. Every day the statue of their god was found on the ground face down in front of the Ark and was eventually broken into pieces. It caused so much pain they sent it back to Israel.

REFLECTION: Read Romans 3:21-26. This paragraph has been called one of the most important in all of Scripture. How would you explain it in your own words? Why can't we truly understand the grace of God until we grasp His righteous justice?

PRAY: Thank God for being holy and just. Thank Him for the daily grace He showed you up to the day you placed your faith in Christ. Thank Him also for the everlasting grace He has given you because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

FINISH LINE: *HAVING THE RIGHT VIEW OF GOD MEANS UNDERSTANDING HIS PERFECT BALANCE BETWEEN JUSTICE & GRACE*

Beginning Activity: **Word Search** - Give each kid a word search in which they need to find all of the characteristics of God listed at the bottom. Leaders have an answer page if they get stuck.

INTRODUCTION – God is holy which means He is pure and separate from anything imperfect. Because He is holy, He is also just and will punish every sin. Justice is the right consequence for the choices we make. God makes the rules and is the judge of everyone who breaks them. We are going to look at one specific story from the life of David where God shows His perfect justice.

SUMMARIZE EXODUS 25:14-16 & NUMBERS 4:15

- What was the Ark of the Covenant? (*It was kind of like God's throne and represented His presence and holiness. God told Moses and the Israelites to build it to go inside the Tabernacle, which was kind of like a movable church, after He rescued them from Egypt.*)
- What specific instructions did God give about the Ark and how it was carried? (*Put poles through the rings on each side and use those to carry the Ark. The Kohathites, a Levite family, were to carry it. They must never touch it.*)
- What did God say would happen if they didn't follow His directions exactly? (*They would die.*)

Fast-forward several hundred years. David became king of Israel and set up his capital in Jerusalem. When Saul was king, the Ark had been ignored and left in a small town. After David became king, he wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem in order to honor the Lord.

SUMMARIZE 2 SAMUEL 6:1-5

- How did the Israelites move the Ark? (*They put it on a cart and oxen were pulling it.*)
- Was this how God told them to do in Exodus and Numbers? (*No. God told them to carry it.*)
- Were the Israelites showing fear of the Lord? Why not? (*They didn't follow His directions.*)

SUMMARIZE 2 SAMUEL 6:6-9

- What did Uzzah do that the Lord had specifically told people not to do? (*He touched the Ark.*)
- What happened to him? (*God killed him.*)
- When had God told them that this would happen? (*In Numbers, in the Law*) Does God always do what He says He will do? (*Yes, always.*)
- How did God show justice in this situation? (*The law said that no one could touch the Ark or they would die. Uzzah touched it so God, because of His perfect justice, killed him.*)
- **EXPLAIN:** King David realized he and the other Israelites had not feared or obeyed God when they saw God's holy justice in action. Later David followed the instructions God had given them and brought the Ark to Jerusalem where they had a huge celebration to worship God.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Read ROMANS 3:23-26.** What is sin? (*Anything we think, say, or do that does not honor God*)
- Who has sinned? (*Everyone*)
- What does God's justice say we deserve for sin? (*We deserve the same punishment Uzzah got when he didn't honor God. Because God is perfectly just He must give the punishment our sins deserve: death and separation from Him.*)
- Why are we still alive today even though we have all sinned? (*Every moment of every day God shows us patience and grace. He is giving us time to believe the truth of the Gospel.*)
- How can we be saved from the punishment you deserve? (*We accept God's free gift of forgiveness and grace.*)
- Since God is perfectly just, He cannot let our sins go unpunished. Someone had to take the punishment we deserve so He could show us grace. Who paid that price for all believers? (*God put all the punishment we deserve on Jesus when He died on the cross. If you accept God's free gift of grace, when you face God's judgment, He will see that Christ already paid your debt and you will get to be with Him forever!*)

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY – Can you be perfect?

EXPLAIN: The leader has a series of tasks for the kids to do. Whoever can follow the instructions perfectly will get a prize at the end. However, if you mess up at any point, don't follow directions, or can't complete a task, you will be out.

ACTIVITIES: Make a circle with your whole group in the center of the room. Take two steps backwards. Give someone a high five. Say the definition of FEAR. Do 5 sit ups. Multiply 11 x 11 in your head (121). Do 10 jumping jacks. Recite 1 Peter 2:17 without hesitating (*"Respect everyone, and love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God and respect the king."*). Do a handstand for 5 seconds without touching the wall. Tell us all the books of the Old Testament backwards. Jump up and touch the ceiling without help. **(All of your kids should be "out" at this point)**

WRAP UP: Why is everyone out? (*I told you at the start that the consequence of not being perfect was to sit out and no one was perfect.*) So, if no one was perfect, does anyone get the prize? (*Nope. That's justice. Justice is the right consequence for our actions.*) Our God is a just God and He is clear on the consequences for our actions, just like He was for Uzziah. Thankfully He is also good, loving, and patient with us: wanting us to accept His free gift of grace.