

OBEDIENCE

ILLUSTRATION / DEMONSTRATION

PREPARATION:

None required.

DURING THE CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Ask the children if they all know how to play Simon says. (If some of them don't, quickly explain the rules: If the leader gives a command such as "Simon says, 'Touch your toes,'" everyone has to do it. Anyone who doesn't is out of the game and has to sit down. However, if the leader merely says, "Touch your toes," anyone who follows the command is out of the game, because you didn't say, "Simon says.") Then lead the children as they play a few rounds of the game. See how many kids are still standing after one minute!

SCRIPTURE READING

Have all the children sit down now. Open the *NIV Adventure Bible* to 2 Samuel 6, telling them, "That game is fun, isn't it? Now, obeying what Simon says is important, but obeying what God says is much, much more so! Listen to this passage from the book of 2 Samuel, chapter 6, verses 1-7."

(Note: Uzzah is pronounced "UH-zuh.")

David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. He and all his men set out from Baalah of 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 that are on the ark. 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 cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.

When they came to the threshing floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. 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.

FEATURE READING / MESSAGE

Turning to page 347 in the *NIV Adventure Bible*, tell the children, "Wow, that's quite a story, isn't it? Let's find out why God struck down Uzzah. Listen to this 'Live It!' article from the *Adventure Bible*, called 'Show Respect for God.'"

David wanted to bring the ark of God to Jerusalem. This special box was the most holy object in Israel...

Why was Uzzah killed? God's law said that the ark was to be carried very carefully on poles and that no one could touch it. People had to show respect

for God by doing exactly what God said, not by doing what they thought would be all right. Later David had men carry the ark to Jerusalem exactly the way God asked. The story of Uzzah reminds us to show respect for God, because God is very great. We show respect for God as David finally did, by carefully obeying him.

Say to the children, "For Uzzah, the consequences of not obeying were far greater than they were for you when we were playing Simon Says. Uzzah wasn't just out of the game; he lost his life. Now, if you don't obey God, you probably won't be struck down and killed immediately, the way Uzzah was. But the consequences are still pretty serious. That's because when a person disobeys God, he is out of God's will. In other words, that person is outside of what God wants him to do. That's called sin, and ultimately the consequences for sin are deadly if a person doesn't confess it and repent of it—which means to stop disobeying God and start obeying him."

APPLICATION

Tell the children, "If this Bible story causes you to be a little afraid of God, that's actually a good thing. Proverbs 9:10 says, 'The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.' God is very, very good—and very, very awesome. In fact, he is holy. For our own good, God wants us to love him very much and yet still respect him greatly—even to the point of being afraid of making him angry. So let your love for God, your respect for him, and even your fear of him motivate you to obey him. Always remember the most important rule of life: every time you hear 'God says,' do it!"