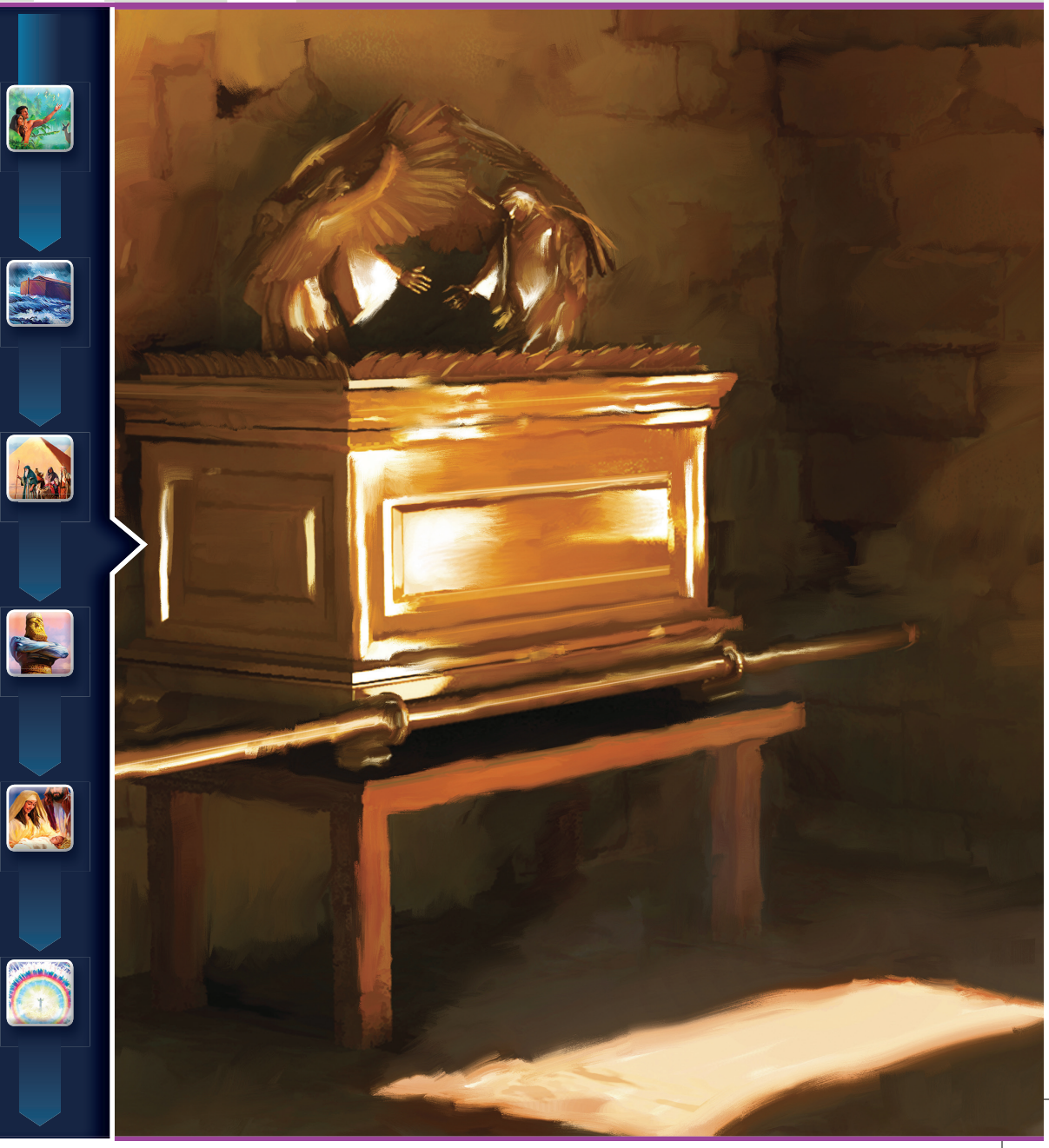
14

Blessed by the Presence

Key References: 2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 15; 16; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, chap. 70, pp. 705, 706; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 4, pp. 82-85; Our Beliefs, nos. 3, 11, 22



Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 103.

powertext

"But I, by your great love, can come into your house; in reverence I bow down toward your holy temple" (Psalm 5:7).

powerpoint

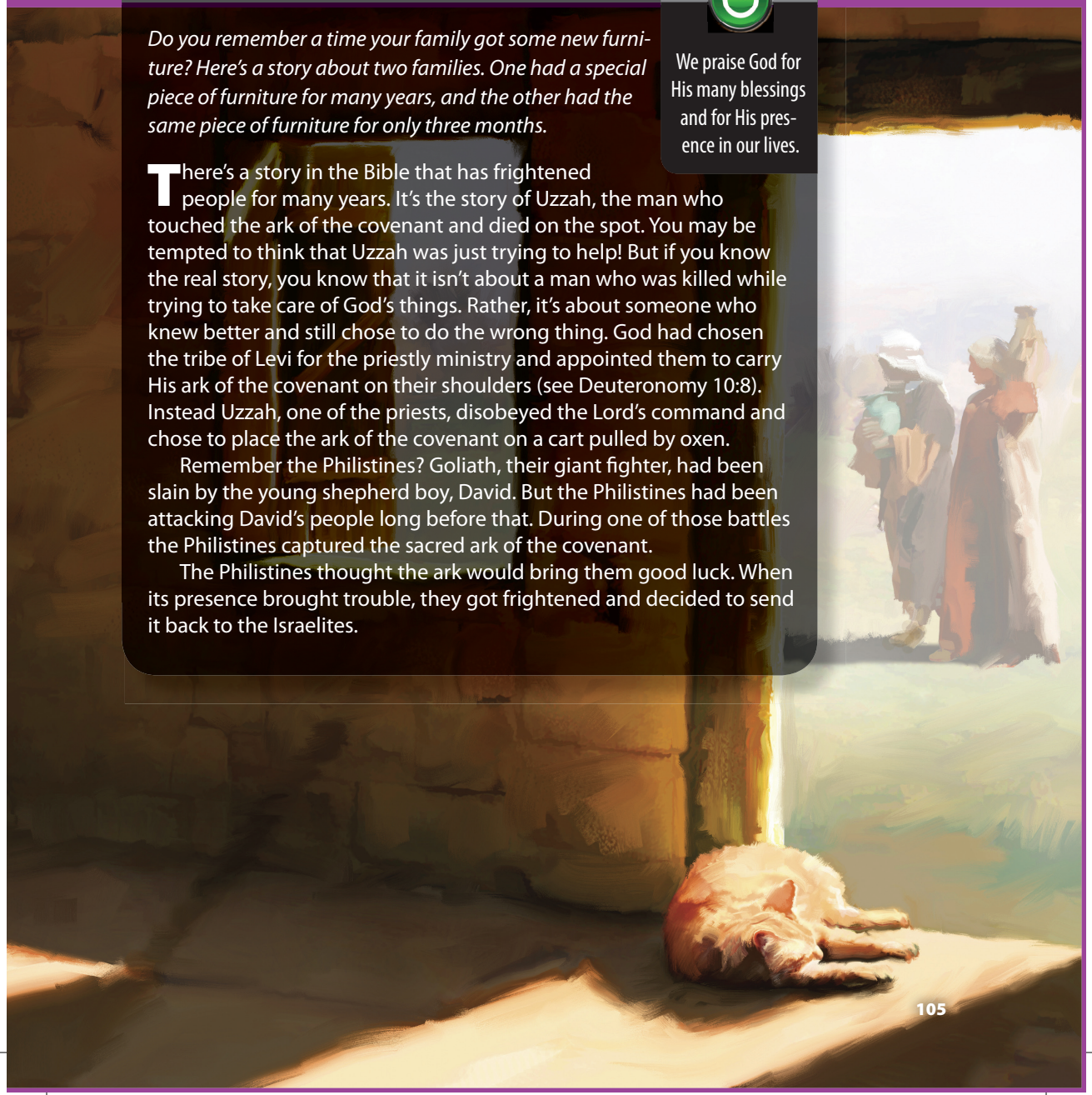
We praise God for His many blessings and for His presence in our lives.

Do you remember a time your family got some new furniture? Here's a story about two families. One had a special piece of furniture for many years, and the other had the same piece of furniture for only three months.

There's a story in the Bible that has frightened people for many years. It's the story of Uzzah, the man who touched the ark of the covenant and died on the spot. You may be tempted to think that Uzzah was just trying to help! But if you know the real story, you know that it isn't about a man who was killed while trying to take care of God's things. Rather, it's about someone who knew better and still chose to do the wrong thing. God had chosen the tribe of Levi for the priestly ministry and appointed them to carry His ark of the covenant on their shoulders (see Deuteronomy 10:8). Instead Uzzah, one of the priests, disobeyed the Lord's command and chose to place the ark of the covenant on a cart pulled by oxen.

Remember the Philistines? Goliath, their giant fighter, had been slain by the young shepherd boy, David. But the Philistines had been attacking David's people long before that. During one of those battles the Philistines captured the sacred ark of the covenant.

The Philistines thought the ark would bring them good luck. When its presence brought trouble, they got frightened and decided to send it back to the Israelites.



14

Sunday

READ Read 2 Samuel 6 and this week's story, "Blessed by the Presence."

LEARN Find a tune to which you could sing the power text found in Psalm 5:7. Begin to learn the power text by singing it to yourself every day this week.

PRAY Thank God for your place of worship.

Monday

READ Read 1 Chronicles 15:1-15.

LIST Why do you think Obed-Edom's family was blessed by having the ark in their house?

DISCUSS Discuss with your family how David could be reverent and at the same time express his delight so exuberantly. Discuss various worship styles in different cultures and at different times in history.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you wisdom in worshipping with joy and respect.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Chronicles 15:16-29.

THINK David expressed his joy at the return of the ark by writing a psalm of thanksgiving (1 Chronicles 16:8-36). In what specific way has God blessed your family?

WRITE Write a four-line thanksgiving psalm of your own. If possible, share David's psalm or your own during family worship.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the blessings He gives your family.

The Philistines placed the ark on a cart pulled by oxen and sent it on its way. Though the oxen were not guided by any human hand, they miraculously went straight to the land of Israel. God was clearly guiding His ark back to safety. It ended up at the house of Abinadab for 20 years, bringing blessings to the family.

Then King David decided to set things right by finally getting the ark to Jerusalem, where it could be a blessing for the whole nation. So he sent 30,000 men to move the ark to the tent he had set up especially for it.

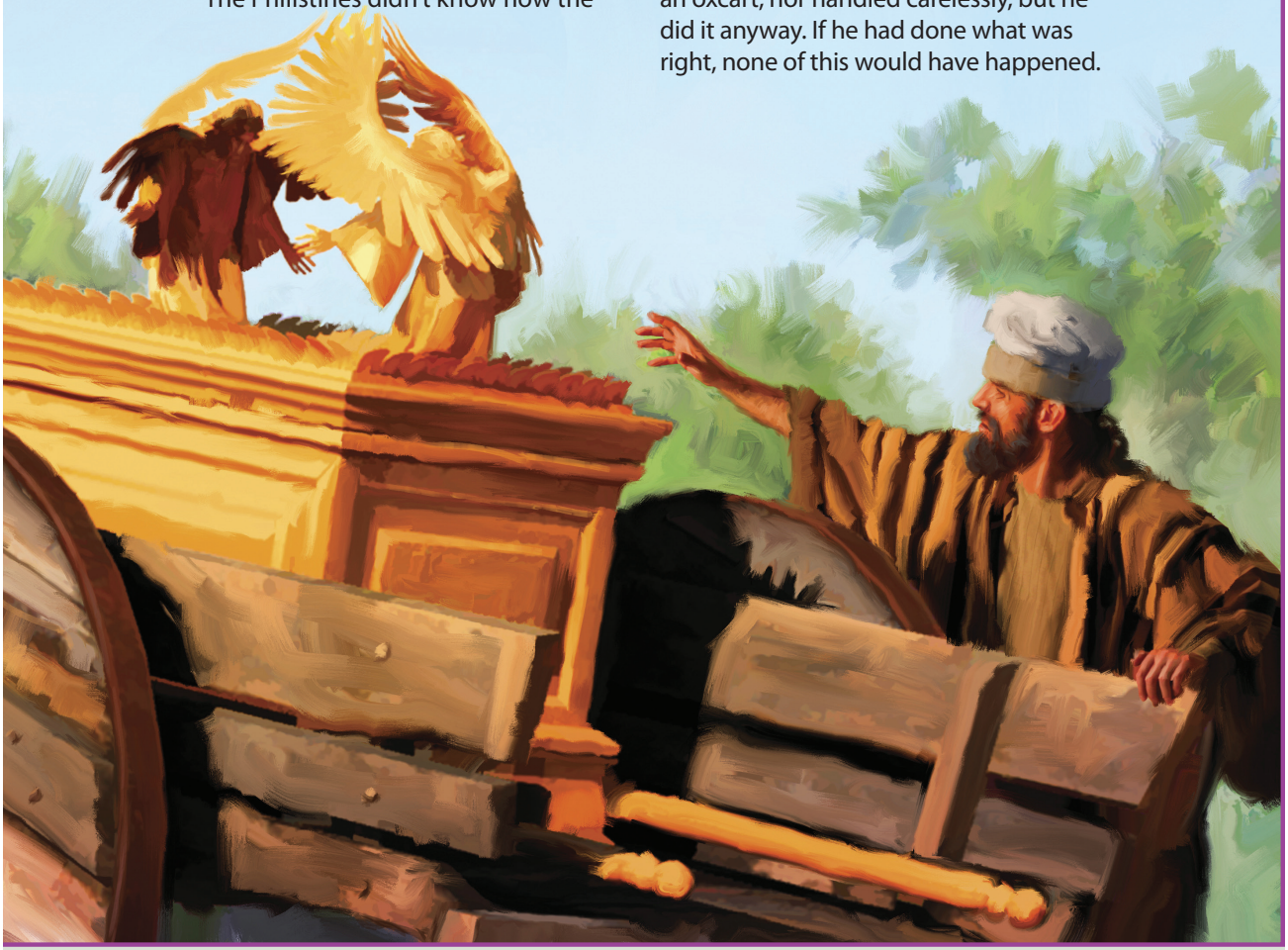
The ark had special round rings on



each corner to be used whenever it was transported. No one was supposed to touch the ark. The priests were to pass a long rod through the rings on each side, and four of them were to carry the ark on their shoulders. Abinadab and his family knew this—they were priests. But they didn't say anything. They treated the ark as a common piece of furniture. Instead of doing it God's way, those moving the ark chose to do it their own way. They used an oxcart—just as the Philistines had done—instead of priests' shoulders.

The Philistines didn't know how the ark was to be carried. However the Levites, the tribe of priests, had received clear instructions about how to handle the furniture found in the sanctuary. Therefore the priests had no excuse for handling carelessly the things consecrated to God's service.

Uzzah and his brother walked beside the oxcart that carried the ark. At one point Uzzah reached up to stop the ark from falling, and instantly dropped down, dead. Was he just trying to help? He knew the ark wasn't supposed to be placed on an oxcart, nor handled carelessly, but he did it anyway. If he had done what was right, none of this would have happened.



14

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Chronicles 16:1-6.

FIND In a dictionary, find the meaning of the five musical instruments listed in the verse above. Think of ways you could praise God and bless others through music.

LISTEN Listen to or play some music that makes you think of God.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that we can praise Him with music.

Thursday

READ Read 1 Chronicles 16:7-36.

THINK When David arranged to bring the ark back to Israel, he brought 30,000 men along. What an experience this must have been! What recent events have you attended or watched in which many people participated?

DISCUSS What part of worship service has become commonplace or casual to you? Why do you think that is? How can you give God the honor and respect He deserves?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you insight into how He desires you to show reverence and honor.

Friday

READ Read 1 Chronicles 16:37-43.

ACT Act out the Bible story with your family during worship.

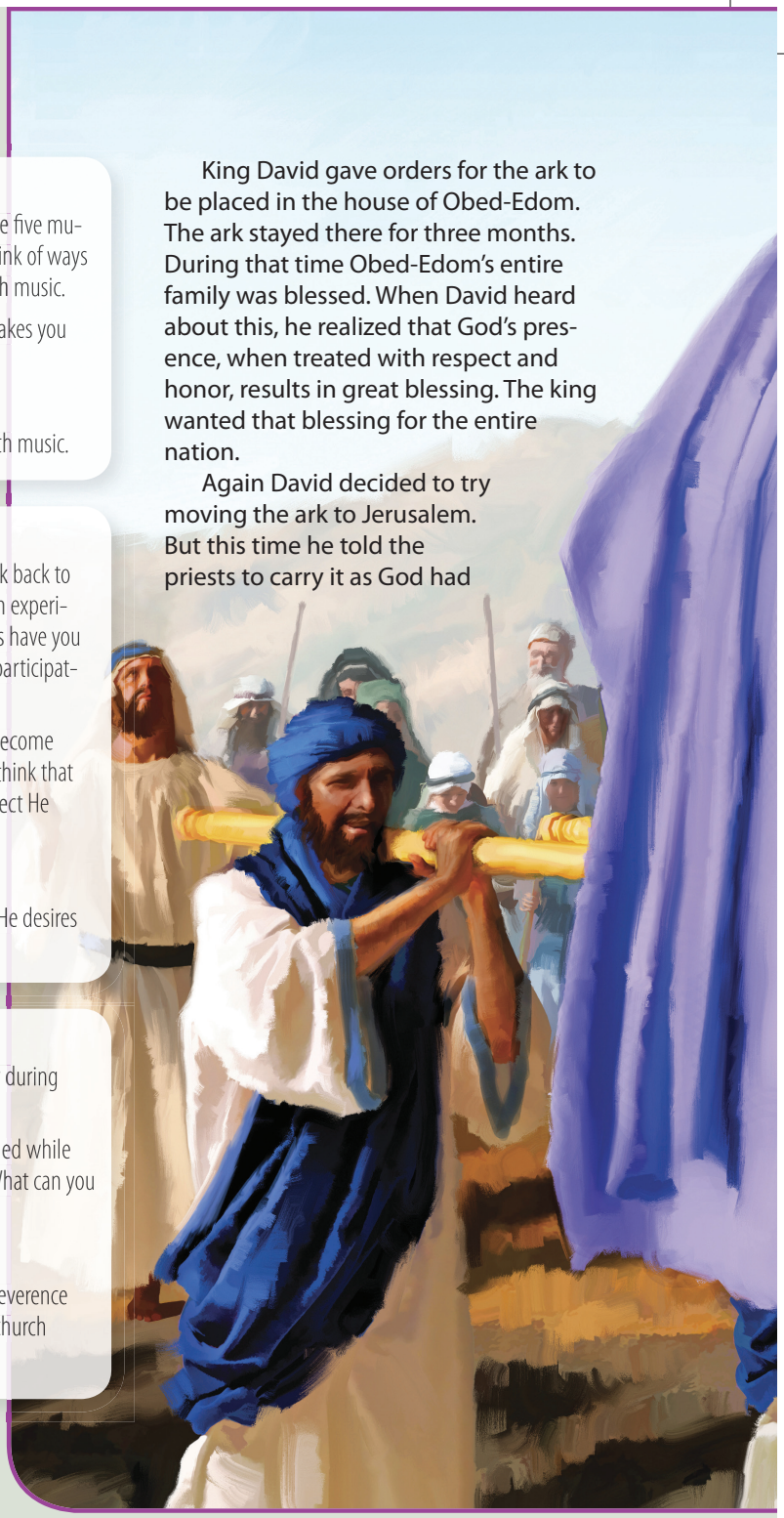
THINK Explain why you think Uzzah was killed while doing something that may seem harmless. What can you learn from that?

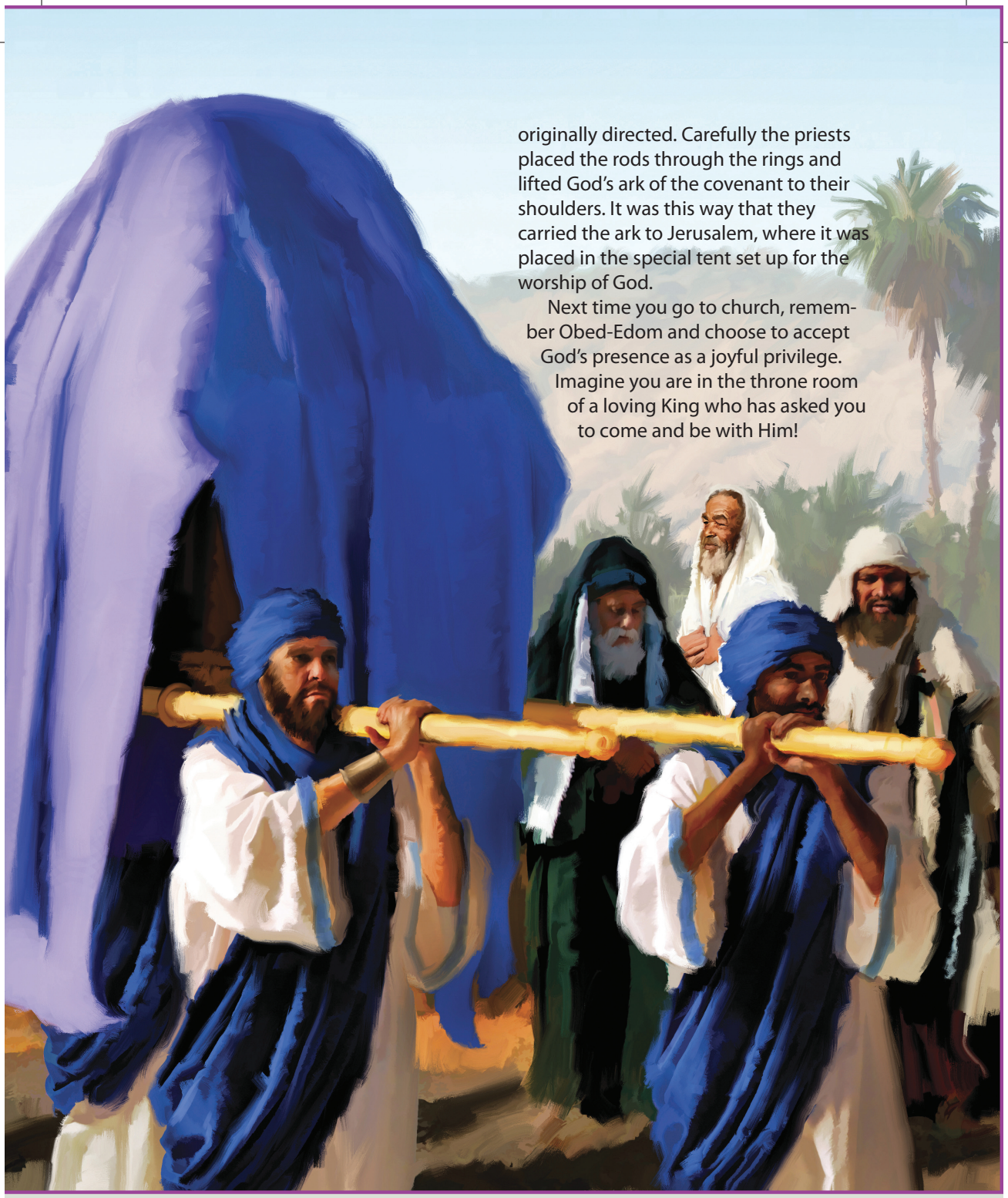
REPEAT Repeat the power text by memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you always to show reverence for Him as you participate in worship and in church activities.

King David gave orders for the ark to be placed in the house of Obed-Edom. The ark stayed there for three months. During that time Obed-Edom's entire family was blessed. When David heard about this, he realized that God's presence, when treated with respect and honor, results in great blessing. The king wanted that blessing for the entire nation.

Again David decided to try moving the ark to Jerusalem. But this time he told the priests to carry it as God had





originally directed. Carefully the priests placed the rods through the rings and lifted God's ark of the covenant to their shoulders. It was this way that they carried the ark to Jerusalem, where it was placed in the special tent set up for the worship of God.

Next time you go to church, remember Obed-Edom and choose to accept God's presence as a joyful privilege. Imagine you are in the throne room of a loving King who has asked you to come and be with Him!

PUZZLE 14

GOD'S BLESSING

Instructions: Can you read the Bible verse from the rebus?

