



# GROUPS DISCUSSION GUIDE

**WEEK MAY 16–22**

## MAIN IDEA

Does the splendor of God produce joy in your heart?

## CHECK IN (HIGHS & LOWS) 15 min

A great, quick way to catch the highlights of what is happening in the lives of the people in your group is to take turns quickly sharing the “highs & lows” of your week. High: What was the highlight of your week? Low: What was the low point of your week?

## SETTLE IN (ICE BREAKER) 10 min

1. Start your time with a worship song this week. Pick an upbeat worship song that brings some fun to your group, maybe even gets your group to dance in worship! Think of how David danced when in worship when the Ark of the Lord entered Jerusalem. You can pick a favorite or have someone in your group make a suggestion. Some upbeat worship songs we’ve played at Summit are *Alive* or *This is Living* by Hillsong Young & Free, *In the River* by Jesus Culture, or *Deep Cries Out* by Bethel.
2. There are unlimited ways in which we can respond to God in worship other than music (although that’s a popular one). What is your favorite way to worship God when you are joyful?

## LOOK IN (OBSERVATION) 15 min

1. Read Psalm 145:8-16. What aspects of God’s character does David celebrate in this passage?
2. What aspects of God’s activity is David pointing out?

3. Read 2 Samuel 6:12-22. How does David worship God in this scene?
  - a. Some background information about the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark held various historical artifacts that represented the promises God made to the nation of Israel. The Ark of the Covenant represented God’s tangible presence among his people and held God’s “mercy seat” which represented God’s atonement for sins as well as his position as King. The Ark returned to Jerusalem under David’s reign and would remain there until it could be placed in the temple of the Lord, which David’s son Solomon would build.
4. What is his wife’s response to David’s actions? How then does he respond back?

## LOOK UP (UNDERSTANDING) 20 min

1. Verse 8 has a lot of emotive language. Since we are made in God’s image, it would make sense we were given emotions by him. Do you think about God’s emotions toward you? Tell the group about that.
2. What do these descriptions of God’s emotions tell us about how he interacts with us?
3. How do you view God’s kingdom here on earth?
4. According to verse 10 and following, how do God’s “faithful people” respond to God’s activity and works?
5. Psalm 145 tells us about how David viewed God, but 2 Samuel 6 shows us how David responded to God. What does his response tell us about his relationship with God?
6. David’s worship before the Lord would seem inappropriate in many church settings today. The response of Michal might be similar to some responses of Christians seeing others worship. What does Michal’s response tell us about her motivations?

## GEAR UP (APPLICATION) 20 min

1. Does your view of God match this description in verse 8, or does the enemy tell you a different story? (Ex: God doesn’t love me, God is always angry with me, he doesn’t have compassion for me, etc.)
2. The story in 2 Samuel shows the freedom we can have in worshipping God. Do you feel freedom to worship God without fear of what you look like? Do you hold back for any reason?

## STEP UP (HOMEWORK) 5 min

1. Spend intentional time worshipping God with joy this week!