

1 Chronicles 16:1-4 (NLT) - They brought the Ark of God and placed it inside the special tent David had prepared for it. And they presented burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. 2 When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of the Lord. 3 Then he gave to every man and woman in all Israel a loaf of bread, a cake of dates, and a cake of raisins.

4 David appointed the following Levites to lead the people in worship before the Ark of the Lord—to invoke his blessings, to give thanks, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel.

What was King David's response to the realities of life 'after the celebration'?

1. Blessing was pronounced,

1 Chronicles 16:2 (NLT) - 2 When he had finished his sacrifices, David blessed the people in the name of the Lord.

2. Worship was prioritized.

1 Chronicles 16:4 (a) (NLT) - 4 David appointed the following Levites to lead the people in worship before the Ark of the Lord.

3. Thanksgiving was practiced.

1 Chronicles 16:4 (b) (NLT) - to invoke his blessings, to give thanks, and to praise the Lord, the God of Israel.

Study Guide

1. Take a moment to reflect on the past month; how did it play out? What were the highlights? Were there any disappointments? How much energy did the whole endeavour require?

2. More importantly, how did you manage with regard, to 'preparing room' for Jesus in the rush of the celebrations? (For a quick refresher you can check out the message on Riverside's website from November 23rd)

3. King David's directions to himself and the people are very direct, and therefore simple to understand and implement. How do they strike you as you ponder your life in view of post—Christmas realities? How are you doing in actualizing his directives to:

- Walk by Faith in God's favour (blessing)
- Prioritize our worship of the Lord
- Practice being thankful

4. The directives listed above are simply another way of being reminded to prepare room for Jesus and it's presence. What are some practical ways that you can do this, especially significant in the immediate aftermath of Christmas celebrations?