

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT: CHRIST OUR MERCY SEAT

BACKGROUND INFO

- **The Ark:** A sacred wooden box covered in pure gold. It held the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments.
- **The Mercy Seat:** The solid-gold lid on top of the Ark. It was the place where God's physical presence dwelt among His people. The high priest sprinkled blood here once a year to cover the nation's sins.
- **Jesus (Our Mercy Seat):** Jesus took the place of the old Ark. His blood on the cross covers our sins forever so we can safely approach God.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

- What is the most fragile or precious item you have ever had to carry, and how did you protect it?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

THE ARK AS GOD'S THRONE AND MERCY SEAT

Read Exodus 25:10–22, Numbers 4:15, and 2 Samuel 6:6–7

1. Why did God give strict, careful rules for how the Israelites had to treat and move the Ark?

2. What do Uzzah's actions and the resulting judgment in 2 Samuel 6 teach us about God's holiness?

3. How does seeing the Ark as God's literal throne change how you view approaching Him in prayer?

CHRIST AS OUR ATONEMENT AND PRESENCE

Read Romans 3:21–26, Hebrews 12, and 1 John 2:2

4. How does Jesus act as our "mercy seat" according to Romans 3:25?

5. What does it mean for Jesus to be the "atoning sacrifice" (the permanent payment) for our sins?

6. How does knowing that Jesus opened direct access to God change your fear of approaching Him?

WE ARE NOW CARRIERS OF HIS COVENANT AND GLORY

Read Hebrews 9:4–5, 2 Corinthians 3:3, and 2 Corinthians 4:7

7. What does it mean that believers are now like letters written by the Spirit on human hearts?

8. Why does God choose to place His great power inside weak, human "clay jars" (2 Corinthians 4:7)?

9. How can you better honor the presence of God that lives inside you this week?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

The Ark of the Covenant can feel like ancient history, defined by rigid rules and a terrifyingly distant holiness. Yet, the moment we see Jesus as our true "mercy seat," everything changes. The raw, intense presence of God that was once locked away behind a thick curtain now lives directly inside of us. We are ordinary, fragile "clay jars," yet we carry the ultimate treasure of His glory. This week, we can step out with the quiet confidence that we no longer have to perform perfectly to reach God—because of Jesus, His mercy is already our home.

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
