



Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

Carry It

Preached by Jon Egan

July 26, 2026

Summary

Have someone in your group read the following summary aloud.

In this sermon, Pastor Jon takes us through 2 Samuel chapter 6, the story of David retrieving the Ark of the Covenant and bringing it to Jerusalem. Using this narrative as a foundation, he draws out four truths about how we relate to the presence of God: mishandling it leads to death; mocking it leads to barrenness; honoring it brings life; and choosing it brings life. He warns that we must not place the presence of God on a cart of convenience, celebrity, or personal preference, following the ways of the world rather than God's design for His people to carry His presence on their shoulders together.

Key Passages

- 2 Samuel 6:1-23
- Hebrews 12:28

- 1 Peter 2:9
- Numbers 4:15
- Matthew 11:30

Opening Prayer

Open your session in prayer, using the words below or your own

Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts, thankful for the opportunity to gather and seek Your face. As we open Your Word and discuss what it means to truly carry Your presence, we ask that You would quiet our minds and soften our hearts. Holy Spirit, have Your way in this group today. Let us not simply walk away with information, but with a deeper hunger for You and a renewed commitment to honor You in every area of our lives. Speak to each person here in the way that only You can, and may everything we discuss today draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name, **Amen**.

Getting Going

Allow time for each member to answer the following questions before moving on.

What is one song that has a way of instantly lifting your mood or stirring something deep inside you, and why do you think it has that effect on you?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of these questions as time and interest allow.

1. Pastor Jon described the Ark of the Covenant as the physical representation of God's presence in the Old Testament. What does the presence of God mean to you, and how do you experience it in daily life?
2. Uzzah reached out to steady the Ark with good intentions, yet God's judgment still fell because the ark was being transported the wrong way. What does this teach us about the difference between sincere worship and obedient worship, and how does that distinction apply to our lives today?
3. Pastor Jon likened our efforts to carrying God's presence to 'carts,' suggesting that we try to make it more convenient, efficient, or culturally familiar. What are some modern-day 'carts' you have seen in church culture or even in your own personal faith life?
4. Michal watched David worship from a distance through a window and despised him in her heart. Have you ever found yourself judging someone else's expression of worship? What is at the root of that kind of judgment?
5. Pastor Jon said, 'Sincere worship does not replace obedient worship.' What does obedient worship look like in your current season of life?
6. The sermon highlighted that all believers are called to be a 'royal priesthood,' meaning everyone has a role in carrying God's presence, not

just pastors or worship leaders. How does that truth change the way you think about your participation in corporate worship and in everyday life?

7. David declared, 'I will celebrate before the Lord,' even in the face of mockery and pressure. Can you think of a time when you had to choose to worship God despite difficult circumstances? What did that look like, and what was the result?
8. Pastor Jon shared the story of a friend who lost his wife to cancer on a Saturday night and still chose to walk into church the next morning to worship. What does sacrifice in worship stir in you, and what would it look like for you to offer God a sacrifice of praise in your current season?

Making It Personal

Take the opportunity noted below to apply this week's sermon to your everyday life.

This week, identify one area of your life where you have been placing God's presence on a 'cart,' whether that is relying on a podcast, a worship playlist, or someone else's faith to carry what God has called you to model personally. Make a deliberate choice to pick it up on your shoulders. This could look like setting aside time for personal worship, opening your Bible on your own rather than consuming another's teaching, or choosing to engage fully in corporate worship rather than observing from a distance. Come ready to give, not just to receive.

Key Takeaways

Commit to memory one point from the message before dismissing.

- Mishandling the presence of God by placing it on 'carts' of convenience, celebrity, or cultural familiarity is disobedient, even when our intentions are sincere. Obedient worship matters as much as sincere worship.
- Mocking or spectating the worship of others from a distance, as Michal did, leads to spiritual barrenness. We are called to engage fully, not to judge how others express their devotion to God.
- Every believer is part of a royal priesthood and is called to carry the presence of God on their shoulders. Worship is not a spectator sport to be left to professionals or celebrities.
- Choosing to worship God, especially when it is costly or difficult, is one of the most powerful gifts we can offer Him. Worshiping through pain and doubt is a sacrifice that has eternal significance.
- The road to more of God is covered in sacrifice. Just as David's procession required both carrying the Ark and offering sacrifices every six steps, our pursuit of God's presence requires intentional, ongoing commitment and surrender.

Closing Prayer

Have someone from your group close your time in prayer, using the words below or your own.

Lord, we thank You for the gift of Your presence and for the reminder that You have called each one of us to carry it. Forgive us for the times we have placed You on a cart of convenience or watched from a distance while others worshiped. We choose today to hoist Your presence up on our shoulders, together, as a community of believers. Give us the courage of David to declare, 'I will celebrate before the Lord,' even when life is hard, even when we are mocked, and even when we are weary. May we never mistake someone else's worship sacrifice for our own. Consecrate our hearts, Holy Spirit, and make us a place where You love to dwell. In the mighty name of Jesus, **Amen.**