

Celebration

Characters:

RUNAH (girl)

ISSA (girl)

AMI (guy)

Props: Chair; golden staff; foam Ten Commandments tablets

Costumes: All characters should be dressed in bright, festive colors.

Creative Note: Three young people wanting to celebrate the return of the ark of the covenant have their plans cut short and wonder what it means for their lives.

(RUNAH runs onstage, pulling ISSA frantically, trying to get her to hurry.)

RUNAH: Issa! Issa, come on! *(checks her watch)*
We're gonna be late!

ISSA: *(putting on lipstick)* I'm coming, I'm coming. Chill out!

(AMI enters from the opposite side of ISSA. He is also dressed for a party and carries the staff and the Ten Commandments tablets. He throws them down and sits in one of the chairs, dejected.)

RUNAH: What's wrong with you? Why aren't you at the parade?

AMI: Um . . . well . . . the parade's over.

RUNAH: Over? We missed it?!

AMI: You definitely missed it.

ISSA: You don't have to be so mad at us.

AMI: I couldn't care less that you two couldn't get your act together to see the ark of the covenant return to its proper place.

RUNAH: Then what's your problem?

ISSA: Yeah. Let's at least go see it.

AMI: There's no *it* to see.

RUNAH: Excuse me?

AMI: It's not here.

ISSA: Where is it then?

AMI: At some Gittite's house. Obed-something-or-other.

ISSA: Why would King David leave it there?

AMI: I don't know, Issa. He was pretty upset, so I didn't bother to ask him. I wouldn't know what to do either. I mean . . . a guy died.

ISSA: Died? Obed died?

AMI: No. Uzzah.

RUNAH: Uzzah? Who's Uzzah?

AMI: He's the guy driving the ox-cart that was carrying the ark from Abinadab's house.

RUNAH: An ox-cart? Why was the ark on an ox-cart?

ISSA: Yeah. Aren't a bunch of priests supposed to carry it on some poles or something?

AMI: Yeah. I think so.

RUNAH: What exactly happened?

AMI: *(reflecting somberly)* There we were, all the children of Israel lining the entire road up to Jerusalem. Everyone was having a great time. The ark was coming . . . but it hit a bump or something. It was about to slide off the cart!

ISSA: Slide off?

AMI: Yeah! But just in the nick of time, Uzzah reached out and steadied the ark.

ISSA: Oh, thank goodness.

AMI: Not for Uzzah.

RUNAH: What do you mean?

AMI: The minute he touched the ark, God struck him dead.

RUNAH: God just . . . struck him dead?

AMI: Yeah. Everyone was shocked and King David got so angry that he just sent the ark to the nearest house until he could figure out what to do.

ISSA: Why would God do that?

AMI: Look, it's not like God didn't tell us how to handle it in the first place. If they had done it the right way, Uzzah would still be alive. The ark would be back in its rightful place instead of some Gittite's house, and we'd all be at the biggest celebration of our lives. But instead, I'm here with you two with nothing to do.

(Everyone pauses for a minute, not knowing what to do.)

ISSA: *(thinking)* Quick question . . . If we don't keep God's commandments, could we get struck down, too?

RUNAH: *(thinking)* Nah . . . Surely not. I mean, I don't think . . .

(They look at each other desperately.)

RUNAH: We gotta find out more!

(All three run offstage.)

(The End)