



1 Chronicles 13:1–14

1 Chronicles 13:9–10

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

When they came to the threshing floor of Kidon, Uzzah reached out his hand to steady the ark, because the oxen stumbled. The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah, and he struck him down because he had put his hand on the ark. So he died there before God. **1 Chronicles 13:9–10**

There is a saying in the Marine Corps: "Good initiative, bad judgment." The saying is often used when an action that initially seems right ends poorly. In the Marine Corp's world of hallowed customs and strict regulations, it is easy to inadvertently make a mistake. Most often, the offending party did not check with a supervisor before taking action.

Read 1 Chronicles 13:1–14. This passage tells the story of David's attempt to move the ark of the covenant from Kiriath Jearim to Jerusalem. David asked his officers, commanders, and even the assembly of Israel about moving the ark. However, he neglected to ask God.

Now read Exodus 25:14–15 and Numbers 4:15. Do you see why God killed Uzzah and was angry with David?

David showed good initiative by wanting to restore the ark's importance and move it to the nation's capital, but he showed poor judgment when he neglected to seek God's will on when and how to do it. The bottom line was that he disobeyed God's specific instructions about transporting this sacred chest.

Aren't teenagers just like David? More often than not, their hearts are in the right place. But, for a variety of reasons, they sometimes use poor judgment. The challenge as a parent is to honor their motivations while being consistent in discipline. This mix of love and justice is quite similar to the love and justice God has shown His children since the very beginning of their relationship with Him.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, family members share a time when they disobeyed someone. A child may have disobeyed a parent, or a parent may have disobeyed traffic laws. Then family members discuss the consequences of disobeying and whether it was worth it in the end.

Explore . . .

First, family members take turns reading 1 Chronicles 13:1–14. Discuss why God killed Uzzah. If anyone is unsure of the answer, read Exodus 25:14–15 and Numbers 4:15. Next, a family member reads: **The ark of the covenant, which symbolized the very presence of God, had specific instructions about how to be carried. Yet David and his men disobeyed these instructions.** Finally, discuss whether Uzzah's punishment fit his crime. Ask: Do you think you would have touched the ark if it were falling over?

Transform . . .

First, a family member reads: **This story teaches us God is perfectly holy and takes obedience very seriously.** Then the family discusses how to know what God desires of each member. Afterward, a family member reads: **God tells us what is right through His holy Word, the Bible. When we obey Him, God is glorified.**

Pray that your family would follow God's commands when carrying out good intentions for Him.