

Title: Rise & Reign: Don't Touch // **Scripture:** 2 Samuel 6:1-11

ARRIVAL / SOCIAL TIME *15-20 minutes*

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing with one another. Also find time to catch up together on how the assignments from last week turned out.

SERMON REVIEW *5-10 minutes*

This week, Dr. Brent Strawn continued our series Rise and Reign through the books I and II Samuel by inviting us to grapple with a disturbing text from II Samuel 6:1-11. In this passage, David is moving the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem—a sign that just as God has chosen David, David is now choosing God. With Saul and Jonathan now fading from the scene and the extended reign of David on the horizon, David seeks to establish his rule with God at the center of it. However, as the ark of the covenant is being transported, one of the oxen carrying the ark stumbles. When it does, Uzzah reaches out his hand to stabilize the ark. As he touches it, he is struck dead. This event angers David and leaves him afraid, but it also reminds him God is not containable, one who cannot be managed or trifled with. And as Brent reminded us the week, even though this truth about God can be disturbing, it is also the thing about God that gives us hope. God is “holy” and “other” than us and that leaves us in awe of Him.

THE MAIN THOUGHT *keep this in mind as you facilitate discussion*

God doesn't show us how to circumvent the wilderness journey; he teaches us how to be transformed by it.

SEE IT – Questions *10-15 minutes*

Picture (What is the story saying?): What stuck out to you the most from Brent's talk this week? What disturbs you most about the passage we read together? How did Brent suggest we handle difficult passages in the Bible? How did his insight challenge the way you think about this passage and other passages that demonstrate some disturbing realities about God? What do you think it means God is “holy”? Why is it important God cannot be contained, managed, or trifled with?

Mirror (Where am I in the story?): Brent mentioned a quote from Abraham Joshua Heschel—“God is not nice. God is not an uncle. God is an earthquake.” How does this thought challenge different pictures of images about God we sometimes have? How have you dealt with the idea God cannot be contained, managed, or trifled with in your life? How does this idea disturb you? How does it encourage you?

Window (How does the story change how I see those around me?): How might this passage and Brent's sermon challenge or change the way we worship God? How does it change or shape the lives we live for God? How do you see this same idea with Jesus in the New Testament? Where in your life, family, or community do you think you need to be in awe of God right now?

BE IT – Practice

Change UP // Challenging Passages *15 minutes*

Often times we read things in the Bible that are difficult to understand or reconcile. This week's message was based on one of those passages. Ask your group to try to name other passages in the Bible they might have difficulty with as well. Write these passages on the board as they refer to them and talk through how you might think through these passages based on Brent's message this week.

Change IN // Challenging Conceptions *5 minutes*

Invite the group to share moments in their own lives when, despite their good intentions, they have had conceptions about God that were not right. Ask the group how different events in their life shaped these conceptions or challenged them. Then reflect together on how reading all of the Bible (not just the parts that we like) is important in shaping the way we think about God.

Change OUT // Challenging People *5 minutes*

Many people today have trouble believing in God because of passages like we read about this week. Take time this week to identify one person where you live, work, or play that might be having difficulty understanding, dealing with, or believing in God because God is not acting the way they want Him to. Perhaps what they have read or heard about God seems different than the God they want. Pray for them this week and ask the Holy Spirit to give you an opportunity to listen to them in some way.

CLOSING PRAYER *5 minutes*

Take a few minutes to gather any prayer requests and pray for each other to SEE IT and BE IT this week.