

King Saul's Sins

Theme: Obedience — Showing love for God by complete obedience



Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. Help students who struggle with the memory work be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Begin a display that will eventually feature all Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a hand-print card for each student with his or her name ready to put on the display. A sample wall display is shown on page 11.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

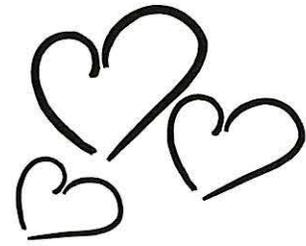
1. For non-reading students, read 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 13-14, 22. Have reading students find and mark 1 Samuel 15:1 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible story area.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by helping students locate the following places on the map of Israel in the time of David, found on page 71 of this Guide – Michmash, Gibeah, Geba, Gilgal, Aijalon, Amalek, Ramah.
5. Introduce the Lesson Graphics using the “Loving & Working Toolbox”.
6. Tell the story using the *Loving Hearts & Working Hands Lesson Graphics* and other props such as toy sheep and cows that “ba-a-a” and “moo” when squeezed or turned over, a plastic or paper crown to represent King Agag, and toy cows, sheep, and lambs.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:

- Saul was a good king at first, but then began to disobey God.
 - Samuel told Saul to wait seven days in Gilgal for Samuel to come and offer sacrifices before battle with the Philistines.
 - Saul took it upon himself to offer sacrifices without waiting for Samuel.
 - Samuel arrived and told Saul that because of his disobedience, God would take the kingdom away from Saul and his family and give it to someone else.
 - God told Saul to fight Amalekites and their king Agag, destroying all of the people and all they had.
 - Saul didn't kill King Agag and allowed the Israelites to keep the best sheep, oxen, cows, and lambs.
 - Saul made excuses and tried to blame the Israelites, but Samuel told him, "To obey is better than sacrifice."
 - God expects us to realize that He always knows best and to be humbly obedient.
 - God won't accept our excuses and blaming others when we do wrong.
8. Before class, label seven large cards from 1 to 7. Turn cards over, one at a time, asking, "How long did Samuel tell Saul to wait? Was it 1 day, 2 days, 3 days, 4 days, 5 days, 6 days, 7 days?"
 9. Hide the noise making toys behind your back so that as you read what Saul said in verse 13, you can surprise students with the animals' sounds. Then read what Samuel asked in verse 14.
 10. Make a large poster showing "Saul's Sorry Excuses" that he tried to use to cover up his sins. Talk to the students about excuses and how God will always know what is in our hearts, no matter what excuses we make. Talk about some of our "sorry" excuses.

Saul's Sorry Excuses

"I did obey, except that I brought
back King Agag."

"The people took some of the
best things like sheep and
oxen to sacrifice."



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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Working Hard on Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for any students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about God.

Prayer

Starter

George was nine years old. His parents taught him to be honest and always do what is right. Also, for better health and teeth, George's parents restricted the amount of candy he could eat. For the most part, George did what his parents taught him, but one day in a store he stuffed some M&M's in his pocket without paying for them. Later that day, by himself in his room, George took out the candy and started eating it. He felt bad about the way he got it, but he sure liked the M&M's.

While he was popping the candy in his mouth, his little sister Allyson burst into the room. She saw the candy and asked where he got it. He lied, telling her that his grandmother gave it to him. This made Allyson upset. She wondered why their Grandmother had not given her some M&M's too.

Allyson told her Mom about George's M&M's, and asked why Grandmother had not given her any. Mom asked George about the candy, and he told her the same lie about getting it from his Grandmother. Mom became a little angry with Grandmother, because she knew candy was restricted and because she had shown favoritism.

Seeing that Mom was upset with Grandmother, George then said, "Oh I forgot. I didn't get the M&M's from Grandmother. Someone at school gave them to me." While Mom was questioning George, Allyson called Grandmother to ask her about the M&M's. Grandmother told Allyson that she had not given any candy to George and became upset that George would say this. Grandmother was also worried that Mom would be angry with her for giving candy to the children.

Allyson went to tell this news to Mom. At the moment, Mom was asking George if he had thanked his friend for the candy. George said, "No, I forgot." While Mom was telling George to call his friend and thank him for the candy, Allyson came to report that Grandmother was upset about what George had said.

This had become a big mess! George felt guilty for stealing. Allyson was hurt. Mom was angry, and Grandmother was upset. All this resulted from a "little thing" George did that was wrong.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-9, 13-14, 22.

Illustrations and Applications

1. *Objective: Demonstrate a “string” of sins, how one sin may lead to another*

From the Starter above, discuss with the class how George’s lie led to other sins and problems. Ask the students to identify all the things that resulted from George’s first lie.

2. *Objective: Demonstrate King Saul’s “string” of sins.*

Print on paper circles made of card stock, and then punch a hole in the top of each circle. Print on separate cards:

- Saul did not wait for Samuel
- Saul gave a foolish order that caused trouble
- Saul did not obey God completely
- Saul did not take the time to ask God what to do
- Saul committed adultery
- Saul worshiped other gods
- Saul built the temple without God’s permission

After the lesson has been covered, have the students sort through the circles and decide which sins and mistakes Saul committed. After choosing the sins Saul committed, ask the students to put these circles on a string, tying knots on either side of the card to position the circles about 6" apart. Discuss how Saul committed not just one sin but a string of sins that resulted in God rejecting him as Israel’s king.

3. *Objective: Following instructions completely and accurately.*

Choose two or three students. Give the first student a set of verbal instructions that can be accomplished within the classroom. Don’t allow other students to give him any reminders as he performs his tasks. Do the same with student #2 and #3. Then, as a class, evaluate each student’s performance regarding completeness and accuracy. Read 1 Samuel 15:3. Ask the students if they understand God’s instructions to Saul. Now read 1 Samuel 15:4-9 and evaluate Saul’s performance regarding completeness and accuracy.

4. *Objective: Illustrate that God wants obedience not just sacrifices.*

Choose students to be Samuel, Saul, sheep, and oxen. Reenact Saul bringing sheep and cows from the battle with the Amalekites from 1 Samuel 15:12-23. Emphasize that it is better to obey than to offer sacrifices. Talk about how we might make this mistake. Some examples are:

- So it won’t interfere with our plans, meet for worship on Saturday night instead of Sunday.
- Miss worship to go to a professional football game on Sunday, but put extra money in the collection plate.
- Stay home on Wednesday night to make an A on a test in school, but read a chapter of the Bible.

BIG HEART Display: Pictures of sheep and oxen