

Loving Hearts & Working Hands



Lesson 4

King Saul's Sins

Theme: Obedience — Showing love for God by complete obedience

Memory Verses

“Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, both you and your king shall be swept away.”

1 Samuel 12:24-25

Daily Bible Readings

- 1 1 Samuel 10:8; 13:8-14
- 2 1 Samuel 14:6-15
- 3 1 Samuel 14:24-32, 43-46, 52
- 4 1 Samuel 15:1-14
- 5 1 Samuel 15:15, 19-29, 35

Israel's King Saul could have been a good king. But Saul did not obey God. He committed one sin after another.

Saul Did Not Wait for Samuel

Samuel told Saul to go to Gilgal and wait seven days, then Samuel would come and make offerings.

1 Samuel 10:8; 13:8-14

What instructions did Samuel give to Saul?

- be strong
- wait three days and I will come to offer sacrifices
- wait seven days and I will come to offer sacrifices



What concerned Saul so much that he disobeyed God?
His soldiers were ...

But Saul became worried about the battle and decided not to wait any longer for Samuel. Saul began making the offering himself.

Samuel came as soon as Saul finished making the offering. Samuel said that Saul had been foolish and had disobeyed God. Samuel explained that God would have made Saul's sons to be kings, but now Saul's kingdom would be given to someone else.

Saul Gave a Foolish Order

Saul ordered that any of his men who ate food before evening would be cursed. The order was given foolishly because everyone was not told, including Saul's son Jonathan. The order itself was foolish because men were in battle and needed food for energy and strength.

The soldiers kept fighting and did not eat, but they became weak. By the time Saul's soldiers defeated the Philistines, they were tired and hungry. The soldiers were so hungry, they killed some animals they had captured in the battle and ate them along with some of the animals' blood. Eating blood was against God's will, and the people suffered because they disobeyed.

When Saul asked God what to do, God did not immediately answer. Saul figured that someone had broken his order about not eating,

and they had to find out who it was. It turned out to be his own son Jonathan! Foolishly, Saul was ready to kill Jonathan, but the people rescued him. Jonathan was a good soldier, and the people of Israel wanted him alive. Saul had to go back on his word in order to keep Jonathan alive.

1 Samuel 14:6-15

True or False? Jonathan thought God would not help him win the battle.

Did Jonathan and his armor bearer win the battle?

Yes

No



1 Samuel 14:24-32, 43-46, 52

Saul told the soldiers they could not do what?

What did Jonathan eat that broke the oath?

- meat
- honey
- wild berries

Saul Did Not Destroy All the Amalekites

God gave Saul clear orders to destroy all the Amalekites. Saul led his army against Amalek and won the battle. But Saul and the people did not kill King Agag of the Amalekites, and they did not kill the best animals.

Saul first tried covering up his sin by

acting like it was nothing. Next, he tried to excuse their actions by saying they kept the animals for sacrifices. Then, he tried to blame others for the sin.

1 Samuel 15:15, 19-29, 35

Who did Saul blame for what happened?

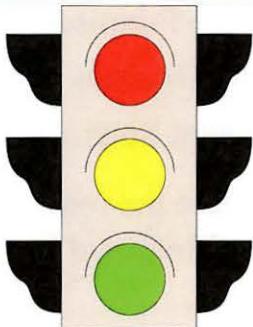
- himself
- Jonathan
- the people

Was it okay for Saul to disobey as long as he made a sacrifice to the Lord?

Yes

No

I think it's OK to partly obey my parents and let them think I obey completely.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — always

Yellow — sometimes

Green — never



1 Samuel 15:1-14

Name all the things Saul was told to kill in Amalek.

_____ and _____
_____ and _____
_____ and _____
_____ and _____

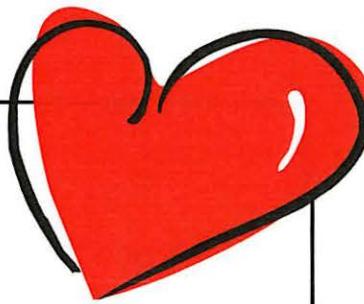
What did Samuel hear that proved Saul had disobeyed?



Samuel explained that making sacrifices would not substitute for doing what God said to do. God was sorry that Saul was king. He was involved in a string of failures and sins. God would take the kingship away from Saul and his sons.

Think About It ...

Match the box on the right to the correct box on the left.



The Middle School is having a Valentine dance Friday night. A cool guy asked Lori to go to the dance. Lori is a Christian and has learned the value of purity and the way dancing may cause impurity. She decides it's okay to go to the dance because she can "handle it."

The kind of obedience God wanted from Saul

Some of the families at church want to leave and worship where a preacher is "more fun" to listen to. Your family is staying where you are because the preacher always preaches the truth and encourages people to trust God more.

The kind of disobedience for which Saul was punished



Working Hard on Bible Facts

Which book in the Old Testament is about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem?

Using numbers, put the major stages of Bible history in their proper order:

- Punished by Captivity
- Wilderness Wanderings
- Salvation in Jesus Christ
- Slavery in Egypt
- Living in the Promised Land
- Promise to Abraham
- Law at Mount Sinai

On a map inside the back cover, trace the route of the Exodus, including Mount Sinai, the Wilderness wanderings, Moab and Mount Nebo. Be prepared to do this in class!