#### Lesson 2:

#### Saul Chooses to Disobey God

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

1 Samuel 15

MEMORY WORK:

Psalm 23:1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

It is important to always follow God’s instructions in the Bible

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Review last week’s lesson.

What happens to you when you disobey your parents? Why is it important to obey your parents? You know that sometimes grownups disobey too (the law, God, etc.). Is it important to obey God? Why? In our lesson today, we’re going to learn that after Saul became the very powerful King of Israel, he decided not to do what God said. Then we’ll see what happened because of his disobedience.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As King of Israel, Saul united all the fighting men among the twelve tribes into a great Israelite army. They fought against, and defeated, their many enemies (1 Samuel 14:47-48,52). The Israelites were more than willing to follow Saul’s leadership into war, because they were protecting themselves from an enemy nation.
2. After some time, Samuel told Saul that God wanted him to go fight against the Amalekites, another enemy of Israel. God told Saul, through Samuel, to kill **all** the Amalekites and destroy all their belongings. Why? For two reasons: (1) to punish the Amalekites for their mistreatment of the Israelites and for their wickedness (1 Samuel 15:2; Exodus 17:8-16; Numbers 24:20; Deuteronomy 25:17-19); and (2) to get rid of more idol-worshiping people in Canaan so that the Israelites would not be tempted to turn to idols themselves.
3. The great army of Israel, led by Saul, assembled to follow Saul into battle. The Amalekites were completely defeated throughout several battles (1 Samuel 15:7ff).
4. But the king of the Amalekites, Agag, was not killed as God had instructed Saul. Also, the best of the sheep and oxen and “all that was good” were not destroyed, in spite of what God had commanded Saul. Saul ordered that only the “despised and worthless” things were to be destroyed. How did God feel about Saul saving the best of everything and sparing the life of Agag? God was very angry and very upset! He said that He regretted that He had ever allowed Saul to become King of Israel (1 Samuel 15:11)!
5. After the battle, Samuel went to where the Israelites were camped. He was told that Saul had set up a monument to himself at Mount Carmel. Saul was glad to see Samuel and thought Samuel would be pleased with what he had done, but Samuel was very angry and disappointed, just as God was, because Saul did not do what God had asked him to do. Saul claimed (1) that he had spared the best animals to be sacrificed to God; and (2) that “the people” saved some of the best animals, trying to pass the blame on to them.
6. Samuel was not interested in Saul’s excuses or attempts to rationalize what he’d done. [Read with the older children 1 Samuel 15:22-23 and discuss its meaning.] Saul deliberately chose to ignore God’s specific instructions to try something he thought was better.
7. However, when Samuel confronted him, Saul admitted that he had sinned against God, by allowing himself to be pressured by the people. Samuel told Saul that God would not accept excuses for being a bad king. He went on to say that God had rejected him from being King of Israel. As Samuel turned to leave, Saul grabbed his robe and tore it. Samuel then used the torn coat as an illustration of how God would tear the kingdom of Israel from Saul.
8. One last time, Samuel led Saul in worship to God. Then he demanded that Agag, King of the Amalekites, be brought to him; Samuel killed him, as God had commanded Saul to do.
9. Samuel returned to his home in Ramah, heart-broken at Saul’s disobedience and lack of respect for God (1 Samuel 15:35-16:1).
10. Saul was selected by God to be the leader of His chosen people, and God expected Saul to be a good leader. The only way he could be a good leader was by following God’s laws, but Saul thought he could improve God’s instructions. Saul lost a close friend: Samuel. He also lost the Lord’s blessing, and he lost the kingdom.
11. God expects us to obey His Word, too, without changing anything in it. [Read with the older children Deuteronomy 4:2, Revelation 22:18, Galatians 1:8-9, and 1 Corinthians 4:6.] There is no way to “make it okay” to disobey God—no way to do something wrong in a right way. We can’t “improve” on ways to worship or rules about families or anything else by doing things other than the way God has commanded.

**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the booklet [***Surrendering to***](http://www.apologeticspress.org/store/Product.aspx?pid=451)[***His Lordship***](http://www.apologeticspress.org/store/Product.aspx?pid=451) by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for a study on the principle of authority in the Bible and Saul’s neglect of it.

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces, Lesson insert in Betty Lukens Manual

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series Life of Samuel (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “02” in the Visuals Folder
* A recipe or cookbook and ingredients, as well as other silly ingredients that are not in the recipe – refer to the activites section of the lesson for directions.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

Any songs dealing with obedience would be appropriate

* Trust and Obey
* Oh be Careful Little Eyes

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Bring a recipe and its ingredients, as well as other silly ingredients that are not in the recipe. Talk to the children about adding things that are not required by the recipe or leaving things out. Discuss the results. Children at this age may not know how different ingredients can affect foods w/o having tried it. If you have time, consider making a batch of cookies. Cook some correctly. On some leave out sugar, on other add an odd ingredient, maybe too much talk or an odd spice. Actually tasting the different cookies will help emphasize your point.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

Tell the children about a previous time that Saul purposely disobeyed God’s instructions before the incident with King Agag:

1. When Saul had been king for some time, he chose 3,000 soldiers to attack the Philistines (1 Samuel 13). The Philistines then gathered a massive army to fight back, and the Israelites became afraid. Samuel told Saul to wait for him seven days at Gilgal before going into battle, so that Samuel could lead a worship to God before the battle.
2. When seven days had passed, Samuel still had not shown up, and in fear, many of the Israelites began to scatter and leave the army. Saul panicked, and instead of obeying God and waiting for Samuel to lead the worship, Saul chose to do it himself. Samuel warned Saul that because of that decision, Saul’s kingdom would not continue through his sons. Instead, God would find another king for the Israelites that was a “man after His own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14).
3. The Old Testament had very specific rules about worship, just as the New Testament does. We do not have the right to change our worship (or anything else prescribed by God) just because we think we have a good excuse to do so or believe we can do better than what God’s Word says.
4. Spend more time talking about who has authority to tell us what to do (God, our parents, teachers, elders, etc.) and why we should obey those who have that God-given authority.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Following Instructions: Give instructions for children to follow in order to see if they can obey exactly as instructed. Example: On your paper draw two circles, then put down your pencil and line up at the door. Instructions should be simple and easy to follow, yet odd. The student should be thinking, “Why would my teacher want me to do this?” Emphasize that obedience to God doesn’t rely on our understanding. If we know it is a command from God we should obey.
* What Does Your Package Look Like? This is an application activity that emphasizes the fact that although Saul looked like he would be a good king, on the inside he was not obedient. His disobedience is what caused the kingdom to be taken from him. Visuals and instructions for this activity are in the lesson file.
* Kings of Israel Review Game – Review cards from the previous lesson. Add new card
  + Disobeyed God by not completely destroying the Amalakites

Review Questions

1. What did God want King Saul and the Israelite army to do to the Amalekites?
   1. To totally destroy them
2. Did Saul obey God?
   1. No
3. How did Saul disobey God?
   1. He did not kill King Agag, and he kept the best sheep and oxen alive.
4. Was God pleased with Saul?
   1. No, He regretted that He had made Saul king.
5. What excuse did Saul give for his disobedience?
   1. Saul said that the best animals were saved to give as a sacrifice to God, and that the people saved some for themselves.
6. Who confronted Saul about his sin of disobedience?
   1. Samuel
7. What did Samuel say?
   1. “...To obey is better than sacrifice...” (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
8. Because of Saul’s disobedience, what did God take away from him?
   1. The kingdom
9. What three things did Saul lose because of his disobedience?
   1. 1. A close friend: Samuel; 2. The Lord’s blessing; 3. The Kingdom

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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