

Lesson 3: King Saul Rejected

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study that God rejects Saul because of his disobedience - 1 Samuel 11-15
- 2) Learn the importance of obedience to God and our families

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- King Saul's Reign Map – one or two for class to share for this and other lessons
- Disobedience Situation Sheet – one for teacher
- I Will Obey Activity Sheet – one per student
- Obedience Take Home Sheet – one per student

Optional:

- Books of the Old Testament Word Search (for those who are done early). From Lesson 1.
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids

Snack:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| - Round Fruit Pieces (to represent crown) ex: orange slices | enough for each student |
| - Napkins | one per student |
| - Water/Cup | one per student |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

Say to students:

Can I get you to start looking for 1 Samuel now while we continue our introduction?

As a class we have been going through the Old Testament, our focus for the time of the Kings will be in 1 Samuel, but the kings are also mentioned in 1 and 2 Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles.

Can anyone remember what we studied last week about being influenced? The Israelite's wanted a king like the other nations. God gave them a king – King Saul. During this time, some Israelites were trying to influence Saul to take revenge on those who were rude to him. Saul also was a positive influence by uniting the people to fight against Nahash, the Ammonite, who was trying to oppress the people of Jabesh.

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

*Have map ready to show.

Have students turn to **1 Samuel 10:8**, read yourself or have a student volunteer.

1 Samuel 10:8

What did Samuel tell Saul to do? 1) Go ahead. 2) I will surely come to offer sacrifices to the Lord 3) Wait until I come so you know what to do

Who was to offer the sacrifices? Samuel

What was Saul's only job? To wait.



During the early part of Saul's reign, his kingdom was so weak that the Philistines could come up from their cities and make raids on towns like Geba and Michmash (show students King Saul's Reign Map). These raids caused a lot of Israelites to hid in caves or leave their homes for safety. (1 Samuel 13:6-7).

1 Samuel 13:5-15

What did Saul do? He offered sacrifices instead of waiting for Samuel.

Did he obey Samuel's command from God? No

Read verses 11 and 12 again. What was Saul's excuses? Because of the people scattering (vs 11), because you didn't come at the set time (vs 11), and the Philistines were gathering (vs 11) – I felt compelled (vs 12).

Where they acceptable excuses to Samuel? No (vs 13)

Read verses 14-15 again. What were the consequences for Saul's disobedience? His children would not rule after him, Saul was rejected, Samuel left and did not help him.

How did Saul's sin cost others? His family wouldn't continue to rule, people did not get the help they needed, God was angry, Samuel was upset, and Saul risked many people's lives.

It wasn't the sacrifices given at the exact time that mattered, it was Saul's heart, pride, fear, and lack of patience. He did not wait for the Lord, he did not trust that Samuel (even though late) would take care of the situation, and he thought he could take matters into his own hands without God's consent or request. He was more concerned about pleasing others than God.

In three steps the rejection of Saul is made clear. First, Samuel announced that Saul would have no lasting dynasty (meaning his children would not rule after him). Second, Samuel declared that Saul personally had been rejected by God. Third, Samuel went to Bethlehem to anoint that one who would be Saul's replacement as king. After the foolish sacrifice of Saul, Samuel left, giving no more prophetic guidance. Saul was left with a small army of 600 men.

What does what we learn from Saul mean for us today? We should wait when God tells us to, we should trust in God that He will take care of things at the right time. We should trust that if something is delayed, it doesn't mean we should act foolishly and try and take over.

1 Samuel 14:6-7, 13-15, 23

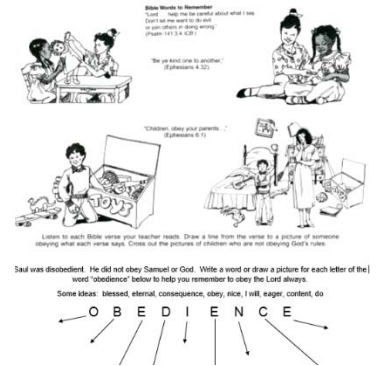
What happened? Saul had no resources to help him defeat the Philistines. Samuel would have told him what to do to succeed and win. Instead, because of Saul's lack of obedience Samuel left Gilgal without instructing Saul and it was only Saul's son, Johnathan, and his faith and trust in God that rescued the Israelites.

After Johnathan's initial fight where he and his armor-bearer killed 20 men, the Philistines panicked, the earth quaked, and the Israelites rallied to drive away the Philistines.

3) I Will Obey Activity Sheet

15 minutes

Hand out activity sheet to each student along with pencils and/or crayons. Go through the page together reading the directions, help as needed. When you get to the obedience activity at the bottom, read aloud and help as needed with spelling once they determine a word. Allow students to color if time.



4) Bleating of Sheep – Saul's Disobedience Continues

10-15 minutes

Have students turn to **1 Samuel 15:1-3**. Show visuals while reading the account.

Why was Saul supposed to attack the Amalekites? Because they attacked Israel when the Israelites were weak and travelling in the dessert after leaving Egypt. (This account is from Exodus 17:8-15 read it below)



Exodus 17:8-15

The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. 9 Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."

10 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. 11 As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. 12 When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. 13 So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword. 14 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven." 15 Moses built an altar and called it The Lord is my Banner. 16 He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the Lord, the Lord will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

*Show the students the King Saul's Reign Map and the blue area in the south that was Amalek.

What was Saul to do? Utterly/totally destroy every person, animal and possession. Keep nothing.

1 Samuel 15:7-26, 32-34

What did Saul do? He disobeyed and kept Agag the King alive and brought back animals. He blamed the people and said he did it for the Lord to offer sacrifices to Him.

Did God ask him to do that? No

What was God's response to Saul's decision to do things his own way, rather than following what God asked? He regretted making Saul king, God rejected Saul, and Samuel would not help him any longer.

Read **1 Samuel 15:22-23** again.

What did God call Saul's actions in verse 23? Rebellion

What does God really want from us? Obey Him vs 22

Verse 23 lists difference attitudes and actions, what does God call them? Sin and evil.

Does God think one is more “ok” than the other? No, rebellion is just as sinful as divination and arrogance is just as evil as idolatry. So Saul’s rebellion in not listening to God was just as bad as if Saul had worshipped another god instead!

What was Saul’s excuse in verse 24? I was afraid of the men/people.

Was that a valid excuse? No

Earlier we saw that Saul tried to do his own thing and offer sacrifices instead of waiting for Samuel, how are these two decisions of Saul similar? He did not obey and listen. God was mad and rejected him as king. Saul is doing the same thing again, taking matters into his own hands and ignoring the will of God and instead is more concerned about pleasing the people.

What does Saul’s actions teach us today? We need to obey God, not do what we think is best, not give into others, but do what God actually says to do. If we don’t, we and others face the consequences and God considers it rebellion/defiance/disobedience.

Go back to **1 Samuel 14:47-48, 52** and read – this summarizes Saul’s reign.

***Encourage students to read 1 Samuel 10-15 this week on their own.**

The chapters they should read are written on their take home chart.

5) Optional: Disobedience Situation Sheet

10 minutes

As a class go through the situations on the sheet, have students raise hands if they think it is an example of obedience, then have them put hands down, and then ask who thinks it is an example of disobedience to raise hands. Discuss as needed. (Option is to allow older students to take turns reading out the situation and leading the class to raise hands.)

6) Optional: Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

For this quarter, each week have the students go to **Psalms 47:7** in their Bibles and read the verse allowed as a class 2 times. Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: “For God is the King of all the earth” a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Point up when you say “GOD”, pretend to put a crown on your head as you say “KING”, make a circle shape with hands as you all say “EARTH”, etc. and then go through verse as a class with gestures.

Psalms 47:7 says:

For God is the King of all the earth; sing to him a psalm of praise.

Say: **God is King over all the earth. Even though God gave the Israelites a king, God still ruled over the Israelites and their king. God created the world, and He rules over all of it. Any power that any king or ruler has, even today, is only what God gives.**

7) Being Obedient Take-Home Sheet





5 minutes

During the week they will have the opportunity to put into practice what they learned about obedience. (Hand out the calendar to take home and record what happens during the week).

Practicing obedience...

Obedience - King Saul was not obedient. Take this chart home with you today and fill it in this week as you practice ways of being respectful and obedient.

Color the boxes each day as you show respect. Ask your family to talk about what good manners are.

	1	2	3	4	5
 Come when called.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Help with jobs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Have good manners.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 My own idea:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Every night during the week, take time to reflect on the day's events. Put a checkmark under each activity that you obedient. You need to come up with one on your own at the bottom.

How did you do last week? Were you able to fill out the sheet?

Hopefully this chart will be a positive influence on you as you recognize obedience!

Read the directions and examples out loud. Ask if they have any questions.

8) Optional: Books of the Old Testament Word Search

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet and pencil to any child who is done all the other activities early. Read the books of the Bible listed allowed as they begin. Ensure student write their name at the top of the page.

*Keep word search in the classroom so students can continue working on the sheet anytime they have extra time over the next few weeks.



9) Optional - Snack: Round Fruit Slices (Crown)

5 minutes

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice to each child. Explain that, **“Today we learned that Saul was disobedient. Let’s enjoy our snack (which is round and reminds us of the crown a king would wear) while we discuss why he was, and what he could have done instead.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking.

10) Optional - Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you from song list and/or choose song below:

We will Listen and Obey

(to the tune of Old MacDonald had a Farm)

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there

Here a Yes, There a Yes, Everywhere a Yes! Yes!

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

11) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Thank You Lord for all You provide us. Our homes, families, food, friends, health, love, the Bible, Jesus, our church family, and so much more. God, help us to trust You as You rule over us. No earthly king can compare to the perfect King Jesus whom we have ruling over us. Help us to be content, to trust, to stand up to negative influences and instead be a positive influence to those around us. Help us to totally obey You and walk in Your ways. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!