

Saul Sinned and was Rejected

1 Samuel 13-15

God is:
Holy

Summer Sunday Verse:

The Lord does not look at the things
people look at. People look at the
outward appearance, but the Lord
looks at the heart.
-1 Samuel 16:7

SHEPHERD GUIDE

Take time to prepare your heart and mind by spending time in the Word reading 1 Samuel 13-15. Note your observations about God's character and how you see God working so you can share them with the kids.

God gave Saul victory over his enemies and helped him unify the people to protect themselves from the sin of the surrounding nations. Things were looking up for Saul, but then it all came crashing down.

In 1 Samuel, we see *the people's king did what he wanted*. God calls us to die to ourselves and serve others, the example we see so clearly in Jesus. We also see how *the people's king disobeyed*. God calls us to live in obedience to Him, and that obedience stems from our love for Him. We can be so thankful that Jesus is our true, perfect and better King!



When the children arrive, introduce yourself, ask them their name, welcome them to the class, and invite them to play with the other children. When most kids have arrived for first service, ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.



LESSON OVERVIEW

None

Ask the class: *When have you been given an instruction, but chose to ignore it? Or have you ever partly obeyed an instruction, but did not fully obey it?*

Saul had a pretty good start as Israel's first king, but things turned bad pretty quickly. Saul began to think that his ways were better than God's ways. Saul tried to hide his sin from God, which foolish because, of course, God knows everything! God sees our sin, yet He still loves us. God still allowed Saul to experience the consequences of his sin.

Discuss the following questions in table groups or together as a class:

Do you find it hard to obey all of the time? Why or why not? Remind kids that the Bible warns that we will be tempted to sin. Because of our human sinful nature, we want to do the opposite of what we should do. Encourage kids that God is full of grace and saved us from sin by sending Jesus to die on the cross and rise again.

Why is obedience so important to God? Discuss how sin separates us from God. Guide kids to consider that because God loves us, He does not want our relationship with Him to be broken by sin.

What are ways we can improve at obeying? Encourage kids to pray for God's help in obeying. Invite kids to consider if they would choose to obey more often if they stopped and thought before acting. Suggest that kids post reminders on their walls or mirrors of instructions they struggle to obey the most.



ACTIVITY:

Obedience Art

Index cards,
pencils,
markers,
colored pencils

Distribute index cards and pencils, markers and colored pencils to each kid.

Explain that they are to draw one way they can obey God. After a few minutes, let kids share their drawings with the group. Allow other kids to guess what it is. Encourage each kid to reveal what they drew. When finished, remind kids that our obedience is an act of faith.

SAY: Great job on your obedience art! When we obey God, we show Him that we trust Him. Today, we learned how God desires that we obey Him, and that Jesus is the perfect example of obedience. Because of Jesus' perfect obedience, we can be forgiven for our disobedience when we believe in Him.



GAME:

Pass the Crown

Crown,
music (on your
phone, or on the
USB)

Have the children sit in a circle and hand one person the crown.

- The 'crown' is passed around the circle while music plays.
- When the music stops, the person holding the crown shares a way they can obey God in their lives.
- Discuss how Saul's disobedience led to his fall and the importance of obedience in our walk with God.



BIBLE TRAINING 101 Books of the Bible

Reference sheet,
markers,
colored pencils,
"Gotta Know the
Books" song on TV,

Pass out the Books of the Bible Old Testament reference sheet to each child.

Review the different sections on the bookcase and have them color each section a different color to distinguish each section:

- Law
- History
- Poetry
- Minor Prophets
- Major Prophets

Introduce the Old Testament books with this song
"Gotta Know the Books" (<https://youtu.be/v3aRB1xMs5g>.)

Talk about how all these books are God's written Word - they are true and trustworthy and they point us to the New Testament and the coming of Jesus. He is the fulfillment of God's promise from all the way back in Genesis to send a Deliverer to save us from sin and death!

