

Saul Sinned and was Rejected

1 Samuel 13

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 is 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:

What is one way we can trust and obey God? Answers may vary. Remind kids that we can trust and obey God no matter what. When we are tempted to choose our way instead of God's way, we can read His Word and be reminded that His ways are perfect.

Why do you think God wants us to obey Him? Invite kids to discuss how obedience to God demonstrates our faith and trust that God's plan is better than our plan. Obedience is how we show our love and gratitude to God for sending Jesus, the Savior, for our sin.

When we become Christians, do we obey God perfectly? Point out that even when we become Christians and are saved from our sin, we are still imperfect. While we do our best to trust and obey God and His Word, we will still have times of struggle. However, obedience to God is a byproduct of our love for Him. When we are saved, God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us obey Him.



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,
"Gotta Know the Books" song on TV,
5 sheets with
corresponding
book cut-outs

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

Review the different sections on the bookcase.

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

Divide the class into table groups and have each group work on one of the following sections - putting the book cut-outs on the bookcase in the correct order. (without looking at the reference sheet!)

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

Have them check their work with the reference sheet. If time, switch the sheets with another table and have them put a different section in order.

