

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?*

Today we are going to look at the book of 1 Samuel and how the Israelites were asking for a human king. They wanted to be like the other nations around them instead of trusting God as their King. The Israelites learned that God was holy and they needed to obey Him.

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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Prov. 3:5-6.)

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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 14:15.)

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. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ezek. 36:26-27.)



ACTIVITY:

Follow the Instructions

paper plates,
pencils

Give each child a pencil and a non-coated, white paper plate.

Each player should hold the paper plate on his/her own head and be ready to draw on it with the pencil.

Read these directions out loud for the players to follow:

1. Draw grass on the ground.
2. Draw the sun with rays in the sky.
3. Draw two flowers in the grass that are not touching.
4. Draw 2 birds in the sky under the sun.
5. Draw a ball in between the flowers.
6. Draw one cloud in the sky next to the sun.



Have them take the plate off of their heads and look at their crazy drawing. If you want to score the drawings give them points for the following –

- 1 point if the sun is in the sky.
- 1 point if none of the sun's rays overlap.
- 1 point if your flowers do not touch.
- 1 point if your flowers are in the grass.
- 2 points if your birds are under the sun.
- 1 point if your ball is in between the flowers.
- 1 point if your cloud is not touching any grass or flowers.

Discuss how accurate or inaccurate the drawn pictures are and point out where the instructions were not clear or misunderstood.

After the game, relate it back to the story of King Saul. Talk about how Saul failed to follow God's instructions and was rejected by God. Talk about ways we can follow God's instructions in our everyday life.



MEMORY VERSE GAME

Disappearing Verse

Key Passage Poster,
construction paper
ball

Practice 1 Samuel 16:7 together a few times.

Roll a piece of construction paper into a ball.

Write 1 Samuel 16:7 in big letters on the white board.

Choose one volunteer to stand 15 paces away from the white board. Lead him to throw the paper ball at the poster. Erase and draw a line to designate the blank word over whichever word(s) the ball touches or hits closest to.

Guide kids to say the key passage with the blanks. Continue until all the words of the verse are erased and kids are able to say the key passage from memory.