

# Lesson 7

Cross

Formed

Kids

How did the king do what was evil in God's sight?

The king responded to God's promise with rebellion and disobedience.

*Read aloud: 1 Samuel 15:22-23*

## Recommended Illustration

On a table or somewhere in your home, put an assortment of items to be thrown away. Make sure most of them are clearly garbage. But, amidst the trash, place in an obvious position something your child holds very dear. Maybe it's a favorite toy. Maybe it's a bicycle. Maybe it's a \$100 bill. Just make sure it's something amazing and make sure it's clearly visible and clearly part of the pile.

Just before the lesson, ask your child to go to whatever room the pile is in and to throw everything in the pile in the garbage. See what happens. Be ready to ask what all was thrown away, and have a conversation about what they chose to do with the really special and beloved item. Use this moment to transition to the Biblical content.

## Helpful Insights

God had told the King to destroy everything in the Amalekite nation: people, animals, treasures, everything. But the King realized after he had won the

battle that some parts of the spoil were really way too valuable to destroy, so he made it into a gift for the Lord instead.

How do you think the Lord responded to this? With pleasure or displeasure? If you said displeasure, you're exactly right. The king may have thought he was doing a good thing. He probably thought something like, "I know God said 'Destroy everything,' but if only he saw these sheep, He'd definitely want me to keep them for Him. Yes, what a great idea! I'll keep the really valuable stuff for the Lord."

This is where the trouble comes in. When it comes to God's commands, He doesn't want our good ideas or our fancy presents. He wants our simple no-questions-asked, no-waiting-around trust and obedience.

When the king decided to spare what God commanded him to destroy, the king was showing that he believed his own ideas were more important than God's command. This was evil in the sight of the Lord, and it wouldn't be long before the king would learn this lesson the hard way.

### **The Point**

God wants our obedience, not our own ingenious idea of sacrifice. It's never right to do what God has said is wrong.

