

Name: _____

Date: _____

SAUL: WHEN HUMILITY TURNS TO PRIDE

“For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.” (Galatians 6:3)

Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	God appointed Saul as Israel’s first king. The trials he faced revealed Saul to be self-seeking and full of pride.
Knowledge of God	God is sovereign. He should be feared and obeyed.
Good Works	Obey God by humbling our hearts. God wants us to depend on Him, and He will protect those who do.

A. Saul’s Early Reign

1. *A humble character:* Saul’s reaction to Samuel’s words and the results of the drawing of lots show a modest man who initially did not want to step forward as king.
2. *A peaceful character:* Saul’s reaction to the rebels was neither anger nor vengeance.
3. *A successful military leader:* Although he was given an unexpected and heavy responsibility as king, Saul still stepped up to fulfill his duty when Israel needed him. More importantly, he asked for God’s council before going into battle.

B. Saul’s Deteriorating Faith

1. *Saul sacrifices unlawfully:* Saul’s true character was revealed when under pressure. He became impatient and overstepped his boundaries by making an offering, though he was not a priest.
2. *Saul makes a foolish oath:* His oath was impulsive and poorly thought out; as a result, his army was hungry and Jonathan almost died. Worse, the Israelites were led to sin.
3. *Saul disobeys God:* Saul feared his people’s criticism more than he feared God. Consequently, this caused him not only to fail to obey God, but also to justify his actions without repentance.
4. *Saul consults a witch:* In the ultimate act of disobedience, Saul turned to the occult in his desperate need for guidance, despite knowing that God hates all witchcraft and mediums.

C. The Results of Pride and Jealousy

1. *His heart no longer had room for God:* Saul’s inability to set aside his selfish desires left no room for God in his heart.
2. *Jealousy transformed his love to hatred:* Saul’s pride and desire for approval led to jealousy. This led to hatred, and eventually, to repeated attempts to murder David, whom he once loved.
3. *God no longer answered him:* Saul correctly attempted to inquire of the Lord, but it was tragically too late. He had already strayed too far, so the Lord no longer answered him.

Life Application

1. To Obey Is Better than Sacrifice

Disobedience is a serious sin, because it means that we do not value God or His place in our hearts. But if we learn to patiently wait for God and obey Him, we will discover entirely new purposes and directions in our lives.

2. Depending on God

When we finally learn to depend on God through prayer, constant conversation with Him, and trust in His promises, our lives will transform.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 7 Homework Assignment

Saul: When Humility Turns to Pride

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Galatians 6:3):

1. What is the memory verse teaching us about pride?
2. “Behold, to _____ is better than _____, and to _____ than the _____ of _____.” (1 Samuel 15:22b)
3. What are three characteristics of Saul during his early reign?
4. What two major events were a sign of Saul’s changed heart?
5. What were the results of the pride and jealousy in Saul’s heart?
6. Why is disobeying God such a serious sin?
7. Considering today’s lesson, do you consider yourself fully dependent on God? Why or why not?