

LESSON 5

THE LORD REJECTS SAUL

BEFORE YOU TEACH

The Role of Priests and Kings

The priesthood was a holy institution established by God and was limited only to the tribe of Levi. From this tribe, Aaron and his sons were especially chosen to be the high priests of Israel. Instructed by God, Moses consecrated his brother Aaron as the first high priest.

The high priest acted as a mediator between God and His people. He represented the people before God and offered the various sacrifices prescribed by the law. He was also responsible for seeing that the duties of all the priests were carried out. The most important responsibility occurred annually on the Day of Atonement. On this day, he entered the Holy of Holiest, the most holy place in the tabernacle, and made sacrifices—first for his own sins, and then for the sins committed by all the people during the year that just ended (Ex 30:10).

Although Saul was the king, it was a direct violation of God's law for him to offer a sacrifice. Even a king was not allowed to take upon himself priestly duties or services. As a result, Samuel told him that the kingdom would be taken away from him, because he had not kept the command that the Lord had given him (1 Sam 13:13-14).

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus came and died for the sins of men. He gave direct access to man to come before God. All believers are priests but we do not carry the responsibilities of the Old Testament. We are all "kings and priests." As priests, we have free access into the holiest place of all, and we can offer up the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, and the sacrifices of grateful service from day to day.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Most of us may have the heart to obey God, but sometimes we are guilty of obeying only halfway through. However, when God gives a command, He expects us to obey Him completely. We please God by showing our commitment to Him through our obedience. There are times when we are tempted to do only part of what God says. For example, Colossians 3:20 says, "Children, obey your parents in all things." Do we only partially obey our parents when they tell us to do something? In Matthew 5:44, God tells us to "love your enemies." Do we only love those who do nice things for us?

Until we learn to obey God, He won't be interested in our worship. 1 Samuel 15:22 says, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifice, as in obeying the voice of the Lord?" But how is it possible to obey all that the Lord commands? We need to ask God to give us the strength and the will to do all that He says. Without Him, we can do nothing. God tells us to be careful to keep His commands. We can count on God's strength to enable us to obey Him.

BIBLE TEXT

1 Samuel 13:1-15, 15:1-23

BIBLE TRUTH

God wants us to be fully obedient to Him.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To learn to obey God fully and seek after Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"To obey is better than sacrifice."

(1 Samuel 15:22b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for gathering us here to worship and learn Your holy word. Please guide us today as we learn about King Saul and how You rejected him because he didn't obey You fully. Help us, Lord, to obey Your words quickly, cheerfully, and completely. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

outnumber: to be greater in number

offerings: presents of different animals given to the Lord

Philistines: a powerful tribe and enemy of Israel who settled in the lower parts of Canaan

Amalekites: an enemy of Israel

priests: men from the tribe of Levi who were chosen by God to serve in the temple and offer sacrifices

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about how the Israelites asked for a king. Why did they want a king? (They wanted a king that they could see; they wanted to be like the other nations around them.) What did Samuel warn them that a king would do to them? (He would make them work for him; he would take their best lands, etc.) Was God happy that they wanted a king? (No.) Why not? (They had rejected God as their true King.) Who was chosen to be the first king of Israel? (Saul.) What did we learn from last week's lesson? (That we should have Jesus as the King of our hearts. He should be in first place in our lives.)

This week, we will learn about Saul and what he did after he became king.

BIBLE STORY

The Israelites and Philistines Gather for Battle

King Saul once called the people of Israel to fight against a very powerful tribe called the Philistines. The Philistines had 30,000 iron chariots, along with 6,000 horsemen and too many foot soldiers to count. The army of Israel, on the other hand, was weak and few in number compared to the Philistines. How do you think that made the Israelites feel? What would you do if you saw that you were outnumbered and saw this huge army before you? The men of Israel were terrified. They knew they were in danger, so they began to flee and hide in caves, holes, and rocks all around the countryside.

Saul Offers His Own Sacrifice

Those who remained with King Saul in battle were afraid for their lives. Before the battle, the prophet Samuel had promised to meet Saul after seven days to offer a sacrifice to God to ask for His help.

Saul waited for one day, but Samuel did not come. He waited for a second day and still Samuel did not appear. He continued to wait for seven days, and Samuel still did not come. Saul began to get worried. What should he do now? He didn't want to fight without offering a sacrifice to God, and his men were beginning to run away.

When King Saul saw his men leaving and Samuel still had not come, he decided to offer the sacrifice himself. "Bring me the offerings," Saul said, and he began to offer the burnt offerings himself.

Was it right for Saul to offer sacrifices? In the days of Saul, only the priests from the tribe of Levi could make offerings to God. It didn't matter who you were; if you were not a priest, it was against God's commands for you to offer sacrifices. Knowing this, were Saul's actions right? No, Saul was a king, not a priest and he was from the tribe

of Benjamin. He should have waited for Samuel to come to offer the sacrifices. Saul thus committed a great sin before God.

As soon as Saul had finished with the burnt offering, Samuel arrived and Saul went out to meet him. "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were leaving, that you didn't come at the time you said you would, and that the Philistines were gathering at Michmash, I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come and fight me, and I have not asked for the Lord's help.' So I felt like I had to offer the sacrifice."

"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the commandment of the Lord. If you had, you and your family would have ruled Israel for all time. But now you will no longer rule Israel. God will raise up for Himself a man after His own heart, one who will obey Him."

Saul Fights Against the Amalekites

Saul should have learned from his mistake, but he didn't. Later, God wanted Saul to fight against the Amalekites. The Amalekites were enemies who had attacked Israel before and now God wanted to destroy them. God told Saul to attack the Amalekites and to completely destroy the people and everything they owned including their sheep, oxen, camels, and donkeys. They were to keep nothing.

Saul and his army were able to overthrow the Amalekites easily. However, Saul did not destroy everything as God had instructed. He kept the king of the Amalekites, King Agag, alive, along with the best sheep and oxen and everything that was good.

When Samuel met Saul the next day, Saul said to Samuel, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord!"

Samuel asked, "If you have obeyed God, why do I hear the sounds of sheep and oxen?"

Saul quickly began to make excuses. But Samuel said to Saul, "Stop. I will tell you what God said to me last night. God said, 'You were nothing at first, but I have made you king over Israel.' God also commanded you to totally destroy the Amalekites and everything that they possessed. Why then have you disobeyed God?"

When Saul heard this, he said, "But I did, I did obey God. I destroyed everything. I brought back King Agag,

but it was the people who kept all the animals to sacrifice to God."

Samuel then told Saul that to obey and listen to the Lord is better than to offer sacrifices. God did not want Saul's presents or gifts. What God wanted most was for him to listen and obey His words. Since Saul had refused to listen to the words of God, He rejected Saul as king. From that day onwards, God would take the kingdom from Saul and give it to another man who would listen to and obey His words.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **What are the names of the two enemies that Saul fought against?** The Philistines and the Amalekites.
2. **Why did the Israelites begin to run away and hide?** They were outnumbered by the Philistines.
3. **Why didn't God want Saul to be king any longer?** He did not obey the commandments of God.
4. **Why did Saul have to wait for Samuel to come?** Samuel was to offer a sacrifice to the Lord and ask God for help before the battle.
5. **Why did Saul make the sacrifice himself?** Samuel took a long time in coming and Saul was worried that the people would leave.
6. **God instructed Saul to _____.**
 - a. Destroy all the Amalekites and everything that belonged to them
 - b. Destroy all the Amalekites, but save the best animals
 - c. Destroy all the Amalekites except King Agag and the best animals
7. **In Saul's time, only the _____ could offer sacrifices to God.**
 - a. King
 - b. Priest
 - c. Priest and king
8. **God wants us to _____.**
 - a. Obey His commandments partially
 - b. Obey His commandments only when we feel like it
 - c. Obey His commandments fully

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"To obey is better than sacrifice." (1 Samuel 15:22b)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. False; God said to obey is better than sacrifice.
5. True
6. False; we must obey God's words fully in order to obey God.
7. True
8. God did not want Saul to be the king of Israel anymore.
9. God was sorry that He had made Saul king. Samuel felt very sad.
10. Maze: "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart." (Jer 29:13)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. To obey is better than sacrifice.

From today's story, we learned how Saul disobeyed God twice. What did he do? *[Allow students to answer.]* Yes, he offered sacrifices when he was not supposed to. He also spared King Agag and kept back some of the best animals when God had already told him to destroy everything.

"And Samuel said to Saul, 'You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you'" (1 Sam 13:13-14).

What had King Saul done?

- a. **"You have done foolishly."** This referred to him as someone who lacked spiritual understanding.
- b. **"You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you."** Saul tried to reason by giving excuses and placing the blame on someone else. God commanded him to do something, and he did the opposite. Saul was not humble in God's eyes.

What was the consequence of disobeying God?

"For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom shall not continue." God told Saul that his descendants would not reign after him. Even though he was king, he would not be able to establish his monarchy in Israel.

God said to Saul that to obey is better than sacrifice. What does this mean? To listen to and obey the Lord is better than to offer sacrifices. Listening to and obeying His words is more important than presents or gifts or serving God.

Discuss with the students what is wrong in each scenario and what they would do to show that to obey is better than to sacrifice:

1. We go to church to pray and sing praises to God. After service, we are unkind to our friends.
2. We say "Mommy, Daddy, I love you," but we don't listen to them when they tell us to turn off the computer and tidy up our room.
3. We offer tithe to God but we don't do what our teacher tells us.
4. We give Mommy a beautiful gift and card that we made ourselves. When Mommy tells us to stop arguing with our siblings, we don't listen.

2. Obey-O-Meter

Preparations

1. Take 3 long strips of paper to create what looks like a measuring tape, or you may use three actual measuring tapes.
2. Label them "Disobey", "Obey Halfway", and "Obey".
3. On the "Disobey" tape, make a mark at the bottom.
4. On the "Obey Half Way" tape, make a mark halfway down
5. On the "Obey" tape, make a mark at the top.
6. Attach these three measuring tapes to the wall.

When God told Saul to destroy everything that belonged to the Amalekites, did Saul obey? No, he kept back the king of the Amalekites, as well as the best animals and all that was good. He destroyed everything else. Did Saul fully obey God's commandments? When we obey only part of the commandments, in God's sight, we have not obeyed His commandments at all. God is delighted when we obey His commandments quickly, cheerfully, and completely.

Let's see how well we obey. *[Show students the three Obey-O-Meters that are posted up: Disobey, Obey Halfway, Obey.]*

To figure out if we disobey, obey halfway, or obey, we're going to ask ourselves three questions.

1. Did we obey **q**uickly?
2. Did we obey **c**heerfully?
3. Did we obey **c**ompletely?

We can call it "Q.C.C." I'm going to read an example of a little boy named Jimmy. After each example, I want you to ask yourselves, "Did Jimmy obey his mom quickly, cheerfully, and completely?"

If Jimmy obeyed quickly, cheerfully, and completely, then he obeyed fully. If Jimmy obeyed quietly, but did not carry out the instructions completely, then he only obeyed partially.

Read the scenarios and have the students determine Jimmy's level of obedience.

Scenario 1

Jimmy hears Mom telling him to turn off the TV because he needs to do his homework. Jimmy doesn't move. He continues to sit on the sofa, his eyes fixed on the TV. Mom comes up to him and says, "Jimmy, you need to do your homework." "No!" Jimmy shouts. "I don't want to do homework. I want to finish this movie." Mom reminds him again, but Jimmy refuses to listen.

Scenario 2

Jimmy hears Mom telling him to turn off the TV. Jimmy continues to look at the TV, but he says to Mom, "Five minutes, Mom, five more minutes." Mom reminds him again. Jimmy slowly finds the TV remote and turns off the TV. He takes his time going to his room and then sits down and does his homework. Ten minutes later, Jimmy runs back into the living room and turns on the TV. "Finished!" he yells. Later, when Mom checks his math homework, she discovers that Jimmy made a lot of careless mistakes and left a page undone.

Scenario 3

Jimmy hears Mom telling him to turn off the TV. Jimmy takes the remote and turns off the TV. "Okay," he says to Mom. "Can I finish watching the movie after I've done my homework?" "We'll see," Mom replies. Jimmy goes into his room and finishes his homework. Later, when Mom checks his homework, she finds that Jimmy has done his homework completely and correctly. Mom smiles at Jimmy and says, "Well done, Jimmy. You did an excellent job with the homework. Yes, you may go finish the movie."

Say to students: Let's find out how well we obey. I'm going to call out some things our parents may tell us to do. Please ask yourselves, "When Mom or Dad tells me to do this, do I obey, quickly, cheerfully, and completely?" Then go to the Obey-O-Meter that best shows your level of obedience.

Your parents tell you to:

1. Do your homework
2. Tidy up your room
3. Stop playing your game or turn off the TV
4. Get ready to sleep
5. Pray
6. Share your favorite food (ask students what their favorite food is)
7. Go to church
8. Read the Bible

3. Be a man after God's own heart.

"The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people." Though God had rejected Saul, He had not rejected Israel. Because God loved Israel, He would raise up a king, a man after His own heart. Saul was a **man after Israel's heart**, but he focused on his image and being a king.

When we think of a man after God's own heart, many of us think that this only refers to a "super-spiritual" worker of

God, not someone like us. We would like this kind of worker around us, but we never think that we can be one of them. What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart?

1. *A man after God's heart fears and honors the Lord.* Saul was more concerned with his own feelings and will than God's commandments and what God wanted. All sin dishonors God, but if we have a heart that fears and honors Him, we will do what is right in the eyes of God.
2. *A man after God's heart always let God be the rightful king.* Saul offered sacrifices because he thought they were integral in helping him win battles and achieve his goals. He didn't let God be the rightful king.
3. *A man after God's heart is willing to repent.* When Saul was confronted with his sin, he offered excuses and blamed others. When we are confronted with sin, are we willing to say, "I have sinned against the Lord"?

ACTIVITY

1

Follow and Obey

Objective: To enable students to know the importance of following and obeying instructions.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Large bowl
- Pink, yellow, green, and red jelly beans
- Tape
- Dry pasta
- Glue
- Paper for students to write on
- Stones of different shapes
- Crayons/colored pencils

Preparations

1. On construction paper, write out the different numbers and instructions in large bold letters. Tape them around the classroom.
2. Set aside paper for the students to write answers on.
3. Prepare a large bowl of dry pasta with different shaped stones buried inside. On one of the stones, use a marker or Sharpie to write "Trust and Obey."
4. Prepare pink, yellow, green, and red jelly beans.
5. Provide construction paper, glue, and crayons/coloring pencils.
6. Print or write out "If you love Me, keep My commandments." Cut this into different shapes to form a puzzle.

Instructions

Explain to the students that if they look around, they can see that there are numbers posted around the classroom. Students may start at any number. At each number, students will read the instructions and do what the instructions tell them. If the instructions ask a question, tell the students to write the answer down on the paper that they have been given. When the instructions require students to do some physical activity, teachers should observe whether students carry it out fully.

#1: Turn to Ephesians 6:1. Write down whom the Bible says we should obey.

A: Parents

#2: Put your hand in the bowl and find the stone that has a message. Write down the message.

A: Trust and Obey.

#3: God told me to make a big boat to put all the animals in. When the rain came we were all safe inside. I did everything that God told me to do. Who am I?

To write my name, use the correct color of jelly beans and glue it on the paper.

1st letter: Pink 2nd letter: Yellow 3rd letter: Green 4th letter: Red

A: Pink "N", yellow "O", green "A", red "H"

#4: Do 6 jumping jacks, then 8 hops, then 5 twists, and stretch as high as you can.

#5: God told me to preach to the people of Nineveh, but I did not obey. I got on a boat and tried to escape. I was thrown into the sea and was swallowed up by a great _____. Draw a picture of this.

A: Students should draw a picture of a great fish.

#6: Do the puzzle and write down the message.

A: "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (Jn 14:15)

E1 Year 2 Book 1 Lesson 5—The Lord Rejects Saul

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God wants us to be fully obedient to Him.**Lesson Objective:** To learn to obey God fully and seek after Him.**Bible Reading:** Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.**Prayer:** Please put a checkmark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(1 Samuel 15:22b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Multiple Choice

- ____ : God instructed Saul to destroy everything. What did Saul bring back from Amalek?
 - The best of the animals and all that was good.
 - King Agag only.
 - King Agag, the best of the animals, and all that was good.
- ____ : In Saul's time, only the _____ could offer sacrifices to God.
 - King
 - Priest
 - Priest and king
- ____ : God wants us to _____.
 - Obey His commandments partially
 - Obey His commandments only when we feel like it
 - Obey His commandments fully

True or False

- God said that it is better to sacrifice than to obey His word. _____
- The two enemies who fought with Saul were the Philistines and the Amalekites. _____
- If we obey God's words partially, it still counts as obeying God. _____
- Saul blamed the people for taking the best of the animals back from Amalek. _____

Short Answer

- What was the result of Saul's sin?

- How did God and Samuel feel when Saul did not obey the voice of God?

10. Maze

Please see the following page.

Maze

Trace your way to the center of the maze. Write down the letters you cross as you travel on the correct path. The words you make come from Jeremiah 29:13.

start

...when you seek me with all your heart.

z k m x e d h i f e a n d s u y

"You will _____
