



JUNE 15, 2025

# SAUL DISOBEYED GOD

1 SAMUEL 14-15

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul disobeyed God's commands and was rejected as king. We all disobey God's commands when we sin. Only Jesus perfectly obeyed God at all times. When we believe in Jesus, we are made right with God and accepted by Him.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

## MEMORY VERSE

Psalms 103:19

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Rather than follow the instructions of the Lord, King Saul relied on his own strength, wisdom, and timeline to achieve success. God had promised to extend favor to Saul on the condition that he remain obedient to His commands. The devastating impact of King Saul's disobedience, however, and its effect on his legacy is seen in 1 Samuel 14–15. Through the disobedience of Saul, we see our need for the sinless, sacrificial Savior—Jesus.

How did Saul's disobedience impact God's people? How did Jesus show His desire to always obey His Father?

Saul's hasty decisions in leadership led the Israelites to pursue uncleanness and irreverence toward the Lord. Saul placed his troops under a strict oath not to eat until the battle was over. The rashness of his oath led to the attempted execution of his son Jonathan and the sin of consuming impure food. Later, Saul led his men to disobey God's commands by not completely destroying the Amalekites and everything they had. Saul led his people down a path of destruction, not seeming to care how his disobedience impacted the nation he led.

While Saul, led by pride and impulsiveness, was willing to execute his son to make an example of him, we see a stark contrast between his actions and God's love for us. Jesus, God in flesh, laid down His own life to make redemption possible for those who trust in Him.

Consider Saul's disobedience, which was motivated by foolishness and selfish ambition. Now, reflect on the redemption we receive through Christ's pure and perfect obedience. While Saul's poor leadership and disobedience led to God rejecting him as king, the perfect King Jesus leads us toward redemption and forgiveness of sin. Lead boys and girls to see the reward of obedience to God—yet to see with even greater clarity the gift of grace we don't deserve through Christ's sacrificial love.

## FATHER'S DAY

Remember that while most kids will enjoy celebrating Father's Day, there are some who have lost their dad or do not have a good relationship with them. If a kid doesn't want to participate, don't force them to. Be sensitive to kids' emotions, reactions, and needs this morning and be available if they want to talk.

# WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or do the Memory Verse Activity below as a group!

## MEMORY VERSE

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

**Psalms 103:19, ESV**

## MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Using the TV in your room, review the motions video for the verse. Practice as a group, then give kids the opportunity to practice on their own.

To continue reviewing, write the verse on the whiteboard and have kids read it out loud. Erase 1-2 words, then have kids read it aloud again, including the words that have been erased. Repeat until kids can say the verse from memory.

*Note: Bible Bucks Day is NEXT SUNDAY, June 22!*



# LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in Large Group.

## SAUL DISOBEYED GOD

Saul and his son, Jonathan, led the Israelite troops to fight God's enemies—the Philistines. Earlier, Jonathan and his servant won a great battle, and the Philistine army was scared.

Saul was eager to attack while they were scared. Saul made his troops promise not to eat any food until the battle was over. Saul said, "The man who eats food before I punish my enemies is cursed." So, none of the troops ate any food.

Saul's son Jonathan saw some honey on the ground. He had not heard the instructions from his father Saul, so he ate some of the honey. When Saul learned what he had done, he wanted to punish Jonathan. But the rest of the Israelite army defended Jonathan so that Saul did not harm him. Then Saul stopped chasing the Philistines, and the Philistines went back to their land.

Later, Samuel came and shared the words of the Lord with Saul. God said, "I remember what the Amalekites did to Israel many years ago. Now attack the Amalekites and completely destroy them. Do not leave any of their animals alive."

Saul and his army attacked the Amalekites. They captured King Agag, and they kept the best of the sheep, cattle, and other animals alive. They were not willing to destroy them; they only destroyed the worthless or unwanted things.

The Lord said to Samuel, "I regret that I made Saul king because he did not obey My instructions." Samuel was angry.

Early in the morning, Samuel went to confront Saul. When Saul saw Samuel coming, he said, "May the Lord bless you! I have done what God asked!"

Samuel replied, "Why then do I hear the sounds of sheep, goats, and cattle?"

Saul said, "The troops brought those animals from the Amalekites. We plan to sacrifice them to the Lord."

"Stop!", exclaimed Samuel. "Last night, the Lord told me that he called you, an unimportant young man, to become the leader of all Israel. Then he sent you on a mission and told you to completely destroy the Amalekites. So why didn't you obey the Lord?"

"But I did obey the Lord!", Saul answered. "I went on the mission and defeated the Amalekites. The troops took the animals to sacrifice to the Lord."

Samuel replied, "Does the Lord take more pleasure in sacrifices of animals or in obedience? To obey is better than sacrifice. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He has rejected you as king."

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul disobeyed God's commands and was rejected as king. We all disobey God's commands when we sin. Only Jesus perfectly obeyed God at all times. When we believe in Jesus, we are made right with God and accepted by Him.



# K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group.

## FATHER'S DAY CRAFT

Give kids a jar, the provided coupon printouts, crayons/markers/sharpeners, and colored paper.

Tell kids they can decorate the outside of the jars and choose coupons they want to give to their dad. If they want, they can decorate the coupons or make their own!

**NOTE:** This craft doesn't have to be for dads; it can be for brothers, uncles, grandfathers, or even their mom if dad isn't in the picture.



## CONNECT THE DOTS



This bowling game was a game of all or nothing. Today, we learned that God gave Saul instructions and told him to obey all of His instructions, but Saul didn't. God doesn't want just some obedience; He wants all of our obedience. Even though we don't always obey God's instructions, Jesus did! Because of Him, we can be forgiven of our sin and have our hearts made clean.

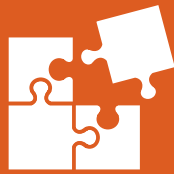
## BIBLE ACTIVITY

Split kids into teams of four. Provide each team with a ball and 10 cups, or a bowling set.

Lead groups to spread out in the room and set up their cups like bowling pins. Then, challenge kids on each team to take turns rolling the ball into the cups. Restack the cups after each turn.

Tell kids that they only get a point if they get a strike and knock down all of the cups. Have groups keep score; the group with the most points after everyone has gone wins!

# 345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games  
with older kids after  
Large Group.

## FATHER'S DAY CRAFT

Give kids a jar, the provided coupon printouts, crayons/markers/sharpies, and colored paper.

Tell kids they can decorate the outside of the jars and choose coupons they want to give to their dad. If they want, they can decorate the coupons or make their own!

**NOTE:** This craft doesn't have to be for dads; it can be for brothers, uncles, grandfathers, or even their mom if dad isn't in the picture.



## CONNECT THE DOTS



Rules help us know how to play a game and make sure the game is fun for everyone. God has given His people specific instructions in the Bible. Today we learned that Saul disobeyed God's instructions and was rejected as king. God's instructions aren't meant to keep up from joy; they are perfect and lead His people to what is best.

## BIBLE ACTIVITY

Split kids into groups of three or four and put the provided supplies in the middle of the room (e.g., balls, cones, tape, etc.).

Challenge each group to create an original game using the provided materials. Have each group write down the rules of their new game. Once done, invite the groups to share their game with everyone.

**Optional:** If time allows, play one of the games they created!

# CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

## BIBLE STORY REVIEW

**Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.**

1. Why is obedience to God important?
2. Why is it important to obey God completely?
3. What are some things that might tempt us to disobey God?
4. Will Christians ever be perfect here on earth? Why not?
5. Why is King Jesus greater than King Saul?

## HAVE EXTRA TIME?

Go to the Leader Folder on one of the TVs in your room. (*Hit the back button until you see it.*) There, you'll find games and activities to do with your group!



## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**