



JUNE 15, 2025

SAUL DISOBEYED GOD

1 SAMUEL 14-15

CHRIST CONNECTION

God is our good and kind King.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD rules over everything. Psalm 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.

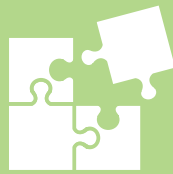
While Saul, led by pride and impulsiveness, was willing to execute his son to make an example of him, we see a stark contrast between his actions and God's love for us. Jesus, God in flesh, laid down His own life to make redemption possible for those who trust in Him.

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

Today is a day we set aside every year to celebrate dads. As joyful as today is for many, it can also be hard for those who have lost or don't have a good relationship with their dad. Please make an effort to remain conscious of this today and be sensitive to children's needs, actions, and reactions throughout the morning.

OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities.

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

ACTIVITY: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

The LORD rules over everything,
everything, everything.
The LORD rules over everything.
Psalm 103:19

(Repeat)

CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “The LORD rules over everything.” God chose Saul to be king over the Israelites, but God is our good and kind King who rules over everything!

CRAFT: FATHER’S DAY CARD



Give each child who wants to participate one of the provided cards. Pass out markers/crayons, tape, envelopes, and the provided popcorn bags.

Have each child add yellow dots to their card to create “popcorn,” as the picture shows. Be sensitive to children who may not want to make the card, especially three- and four-year-olds, or children who will be making one for an uncle, grandfather, or even their mom.

Help children write inside the card and sign their name, then help them put the card and bag of microwave popcorn into an envelope. Seal the envelope with stickers or tape.



SAUL DISOBEYED GOD

King Saul led the Israelite army, and his son Jonathan helped the soldiers fight against their enemies.

One day, King Saul and a big army rested around a pomegranate tree. Saul's son Jonathan snuck away with his helper to go to the camp of their enemies, the Philistines. Jonathan and his helper won a fight against some of the Philistines. The Philistines were afraid!

King Saul brought the rest of his army to fight the Philistines. Saul told his soldiers not to eat anything until they won, so the soldiers were tired and hungry.

Now Jonathan did not know about his dad's rule. The army went into the woods. Jonathan found some yummy honey on the ground, and he ate some. When Saul found out, he wanted to punish Jonathan. But the other soldiers said not to, so Saul didn't punish his son.

Sometime later, the Israelites won a battle against the Amalekites. God told Saul to destroy everything, but Saul did not listen. He kept some of the best animals. Because Saul didn't obey, God said Saul couldn't be king anymore.

CHRIST CONNECTION

Saul sinned by disobeying God. When we sin, we choose ourselves instead of God. Jesus came to save us from our sins so we can follow God. **God is our good and kind King.**

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. How did Saul disobey God?
4. Who is our King? Jesus is our King.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

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

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return storage cubes to Rm 108.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!