

Unit 1: Disobedience in the Bible

Lesson 3: Saul's Disobedience

4th grade or Juniors

Performance Objectives:

1. The student will be able to recite I Samuel 15:22 from memory with no more than two helps.
2. The student will be able to recite all 10 Commandments in less than 5 minutes.

Materials Needed: Visual for 10 Commandments, Visual for I Samuel 15:22

Opening Activities:

- Prayer
- Sing "Obedience"
- Go over the 10 Commandments three times.

Sequence of Activities:

A. Review and Motivation: Ask questions from last week about the Israelite's disobedience.

B. Samuel, a prophet of the Lord, comes to Saul and tells him the words that God told Samuel. "Go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass." The Amalekites were very wicked and God was going to judge them for their sin. Saul was to go their city and destroy everyone and everything. So Saul gathered his army together and they attacked the city of Amalek. It was tradition back in those days to capture the king of a city and keep him prisoner whenever there was war. Saul captured Agag, the king of Amalek and he killed everybody else. He also saved the best-looking sheep and the fattest oxen. The Bible says he kept "all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly." Did Saul obey what God had said?

God knew exactly what Saul had done. Who remembers what omniscient and omnipresent mean? God knows everything and He is everywhere at the same time. God told Samuel what Saul had done. Samuel was very upset when he found out that Saul had disobeyed. The next morning, Samuel went to meet Saul. When Saul greeted Samuel, he said, "Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD." He lied to Samuel about doing everything that God had said! Samuel replied, "What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and lowing of the oxen which I hear?" What do you think Saul had to say to that? It looked like his sin had found him out! But just like Adam blamed Eve and Aaron blamed the Israelites, Saul blamed the people that were with him for making him sin. He said, "the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed." Sacrifice was a good thing for Saul and Israelites to do, but is that what God had said to do with best sheep and oxen of the land? NO! Saul was supposed to destroy everything!

“Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night...the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. Wherefore (why) then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?” Even Samuel had just told Saul that the God knew what he had done, Saul protested, “Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, **and** have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief (best) of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.” And Samuel said, “Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.”

C. Saul tried to justify his action, and make it look like everything was OK, but he disobeyed what God had said. That is the bottom line. Either obey or disobey what your parents tell you to do. There is no in-between. The Bible calls disobedience rebellion against God.

D. Go over I Samuel 15:22, making sure the children understand what it means. Play “Popcorn”

E. Review game asking question from all three lessons covered in class.

Evaluation: The students should have the 10 Commandments memorized with the hand motions. They should be able to quote I Samuel 15:22. The review game will determine how well the students have been paying attention over the past couple of weeks.