

LESSON 55

Saul Disobeys the Lord

1 SAMUEL 13:3-4, 7B-14



BIBLE TRUTH

TO OBEY GOD IS BETTER THAN SACRIFICE

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN
2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN
SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 55)
3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN
Where Is Jesus?
SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare
4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN
SUPPLIES: Snack food/water
5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN
6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN
Coloring Page 55
SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Philistines Are upon Us

Patience, Patience
SUPPLIES: individually wrapped candies (one for each child); napkins
7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson we will see that it is very important to obey God.

Here are a few questions you can use to review the story with the children:

Does anyone remember what Samuel is?

(a prophet)

Can anyone tell me whose words a prophet speaks? Does he speak whatever he wants or does he speak the words of God?

(the words of God)

Does anyone remember what Saul was?

(Saul was the king of Israel.)

Explain to the class that God tells us what to do in his Word because he loves us. Demonstrate this by showing them a power outlet in your classroom. Ask the children why a mom or dad would say that you are not allowed to touch the power outlet. (You could get a very bad shock.)

Tell the children that it might look fun to play with, but it could hurt you very badly. Explain to the children that God knows that sin can hurt us badly, and so he has given us laws to protect us and keep us from sin—just like we have rules never to touch a power outlet.

Ask the class if they can think of other rules we follow to keep us away from danger. Here are a few examples:

- You must wear a bike helmet.
- You may not play with knives.
- You may not run around a swimming pool.
- You must wash your hands before you eat.

The problem is that we all have sin in our hearts and sin causes us to sin. The sin inside makes us say no to God's law.

Tell them that there is only one person who did not sin and ask them if they know his name. (It is Jesus.)

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 55, “Saul Disobeys the Lord,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

What happened in this story?

(Saul didn't wait for Samuel to come but offered the burnt offering up to the Lord himself.)

Why did Saul disobey?

(The Philistine army was upon them, and all of Saul's soldiers were afraid and began to run away.)

What did Samuel say when he arrived?

(He told Saul that he had made a foolish mistake and that his kingdom would not last. God would choose another leader who would be a man after God's heart.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

How do we know the men with Saul didn't trust the Lord?

(We know the men didn't trust the Lord because they ran away in fear.)

What should the men with Saul have done?

(They should have prayed to the Lord and asked him to deliver them.)

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Luke 22:42

As a king, Saul failed. One day God would anoint another Man to be king who would not fail. Even when it was difficult, Jesus (the greatest king) obeyed God. The difficult task in front of Jesus was to die on the cross (see Acts 13:22–23).

When faced with the cross, Jesus prayed to his Father in heaven saying, "not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42). Saul placed his own will above God's; Jesus did not. As a result of Jesus' obedience, we have salvation through his sacrificial death.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

coloring page 55—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

Why were these men afraid?

(They thought the Philistines were going to attack and destroy them.)

What kinds of things make you afraid?

(Accept any answer.)

What would a man after God's heart do in a situation like this one?

(He might have called all the men together to remind them of all God had done in the past so they would not be afraid.)

The Philistines Are upon Us

This is a great story to act out. Have some of the children pretend to be the Philistine attackers and have others be the terrified Israelites. Have the Israelites stand their ground at first but in the end scatter in fear. Have one child play Saul waiting for Samuel to offer a sacrifice. Since this is a complicated part, explain to the class that you are going to be Saul's conscience and another teacher is going to be Saul's temptations. As you speak out the things God would have him remember, the other teacher tempts him with fearful thoughts.

Talk about the drama afterward, and ask the children what they think they would have done in Saul's situation. Then connect it to a real life. For example, ask if they would obey Mom when she says, "Don't eat a cookie before dinner, but wait until after dinner." What if she isn't there and the cookies have just been baked and smell so good?

Patience, Patience

SUPPLIES:

individually wrapped candies (one for each child)
napkins

Have all the children sit down in a line. Give them each a wrapped candy on a napkin.

Tell them that this game will help them to understand what King Saul must have felt while waiting for Samuel.

Start on one end of the line. Give the first person in line a few seconds to unwrap their candy. (If your class is older, allow them to use only one hand.) After about ten seconds, have them place the candy back on the napkin and go to the second person. The goal of this exercise is to make the class wait a long time before they can eat the candy. After the last person gets a chance to try and open their candy, go back to the first person again. Tell them they are not allowed to even touch their candy when it is not their turn. It may take three turns for some to open

their candy. After their candy is unwrapped, make them wait one turn to eat it. Then talk with the children about how hard it is to have patience and wait for something for a long time.

Connect the exercise to Saul's wait for Samuel. Help the children understand how hard it must have been for Saul to wait.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

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