

## Unit 10, Session 3: Saul Sinned and was Rejected

**Big Picture Question:** Why does sin separate us from God? Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

**Memory Verse:** Isaiah 6:5 – “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.”

**Christ Connection:** God gave the Israelites a king, but Saul did not obey God. God had a plan to send His Son Jesus. King Jesus trusted and obeyed God perfectly and died so sinners could be forgiven and accepted.

### **Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 13-15**

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

Saul's time as the king is marked by war, especially the Philistines (1 Sam 14:47-52). We have already seen his false humility during his anointing as king (1 Sam 10:21-22; 15:17). His impatient and foolish decision to carry out the sacrificial offerings himself disregards the stipulations given by God and demonstrates pride mingled with fear of losing his perceived power (13:7-14). He follows up foolish decisions with rash oaths that set his soldiers at a disadvantage, including the condemnation of his own son (14:23-46). He fails to carry out the Lord's command to completely destroy his enemies, though they have been declared evil by the Lord (15:13-23). Saul experiences much success in battle, but a close look at the narrative shows that Saul's focus tends to be on himself throughout his life and kingship rather than God.

Saul doesn't disregard God completely, but he is more concerned about his own reputation than following God's commands. Saul's heart is set on personal success and image, even to the point of setting up a monument for himself (15:12). Saul had convinced himself that he was following the Lord's commands and made excuses for his behavior; but Samuel confronts him with his disobedience: “Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has rejected you as king” (15:22-23). Saul's failure to obey God was the result of his lack of relational knowledge of God. A loving, faith-based relationship with the Lord precedes acceptable obedience. Saul repeatedly chose himself over God, so the Lord has found a man after his own heart, instead (13:14). Though this verse refers to David, another earthly king, it hints at someone greater. We, like Saul, cannot hope to satisfy God's demands of faithful obedience with our own prideful hearts. We have to put our faith in the man truly after God's own heart, the man David foreshadows—Jesus Christ.

**King Saul gathered an army and took some of the men into the hill country.** The rest of the army went with Saul's son Jonathan to the city of Gibeah. **Israel's enemies, the Philistines,** were in the land.

The Philistines **came out to fight** the Israelites. They had more chariots, more horses, more soldiers. **The Israelites were outnumbered. They were all afraid; some of them hid. Saul wanted to ask God for help. Maybe if he made an offering to God, they would win the battle.**

**There was one problem: only the priests, like Samuel, were allowed to give offerings to God. Saul waited, but Samuel did not come. Saul's soldiers started to leave, so Saul decided to make an offering to God himself.**

**Then Samuel showed up.** "Saul, what are you doing?" Samuel asked.

"You hadn't come, and the men were leaving me. I wanted to ask for God's help before we went into battle against the Philistines," Saul replied.

**"You have disobeyed God," Samuel said.** Saul was king, not a priest. It was a sin for Saul to make a sacrifice! **"You will not be king much longer. God is going to find someone obedient to be king."**

**Some time later, Samuel came to Saul with a message from God. God wanted Saul to attack the Amalekites** (uh MAL uh rights). **God wanted Saul to destroy everything, but after Saul defeated the Amalekites, he only destroyed the things that weren't valuable.**

God told Samuel, "I regret that I made Saul king because he does not obey Me."

**Samuel confronted Saul** and told him what God had said.

**"I did obey Him!" Saul argued. "I only saved the best animals to sacrifice to the Lord."**

**Samuel asked, "Does God care more about obedience or sacrifices? You rejected His instruction, so God has rejected you as king."** Saul admitted his sin and pleaded for forgiveness. Samuel said, "God has taken away your kingship today, and he is giving it to another king."

**If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at [siever@lenexabaptist.com](mailto:siever@lenexabaptist.com).**