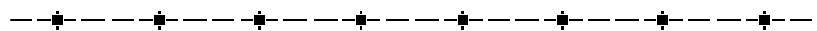


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

# Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## A Foolish King is Rejected

### Saul Rejected

I Samuel 13-16

## A Foolish King is Rejected I Samuel 13:6-13

### Memory Verse:

Here is what it means to love God. It means that we obey his commands. And his commands are not hard to obey.  
(I John 5:3 NIV)

### Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Saul did not take responsibility nor did he repent.
2. Understand that Samuel gave Saul instructions from God.
3. Learn that because Saul disobeyed, God rejected him as king.
4. Recognize that (disobedience) sin has consequences.

Last week we learned that David was a man after God's own heart. David believed God was with him. David was willing to fight a giant because he knew God would help him. God delivered Israel because David believed.

### Read the Bible

**READ: I Samuel 13:6-13 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Begin With Prayer

Saul had reigned as king over Israel for one year when the Philistines gathered to fight Israel. The Philistine army had 3,000 chariots, 6,000 chariot drivers, and so many soldiers that they were like the grains of sand. When the Israelites saw that they were in trouble, they hid. Some hid in wells, others hid in rocks and pits. Some of the men stayed with Saul but they were very scared. Saul waited seven days because that is what Samuel told him to do. Samuel would offer a sacrifice once he got there. But the men were really scared so Saul decided that he would offer the sacrifice. (I Samuel 13:1-9) Saul was the king but he was not a priest. Only the Jewish priests were allowed to offer sacrifice. (Leviticus 1) So when Samuel arrived he could smell the burning animals which Saul had sacrificed. Saul went to greet Samuel. But Samuel asked Saul what he had done. Saul made excuses. He accused Samuel of not coming when he said he would. Saul said he was afraid to fight the Philistines without praying to God so he offered the sacrifice. Samuel told Saul that what he had done was very foolish. (I Samuel 13:10-13) Samuel told Saul, "You haven't obeyed the command the Lord your God gave you... now your kingdom won't last." (I Samuel 13:13 NIV) Saul made a big mistake. But even worse, Saul did not feel sorry for doing wrong (repent). God wants us to feel sorry for doing wrong things. God wants us to say we sinned and to ask Him to forgive us. When we ask Him for forgiveness, He forgives us. (I John 1:9) Later, Samuel instructed Saul to fight the Amalekites. They were another enemy of Israel. God told Saul not to leave anything alive, even the animals. So Saul gathered his army. There were 200,000 men from Israel and 10,000 men from Judah. Saul had some of his men hide in a valley when he went to the city of Amalek. Saul told the Kenites that since they were kind to the people of Israel when they left Egypt he would not destroy them if they separated from the Amalekites. Then

### Saul — Bible Facts

1. Saul was the king of Israel.
2. Samuel told Saul to wait until he came to sacrifice.
3. Saul offered the sacrifice.
4. Saul did not destroy the Amalekites.

Saul attacked them. Saul and his men destroyed the Amalekites. (I Samuel 15:1-7) But then Saul disobeyed again. Instead of killing the king of the Amalekites, he took him, and spared his life. They also kept the best of the sheep, the calves, and the lambs. Then they killed everything that was weak and worthless. (I Samuel 15:8-9) When Saul disobeyed God again, God told Samuel that He was sorry that He made Saul the king. (I Samuel 15:10-11)

But Samuel was not happy and he cried before the Lord the whole night. The next morning, Samuel went to see Saul. Samuel did not find Saul, because Saul had gone to Carmel to set up a monument. The monument was to honor Saul. When Samuel arrived, Saul greeted him and told him that he had done what Samuel had instructed him to do. (I Samuel 15:12-13) Samuel asked about the animals he heard, like sheep and cattle. Again Saul did not say he was sorry. He made excuses. Samuel stopped him and told Saul what God had said about Saul's disobedience. (I Samuel 15:14-17) Samuel told Saul that God had anointed him king when he didn't think he was important. Samuel asked Saul the reason he disobeyed God. But Saul continued to defend his actions saying that the animals were to sacrifice to God. (I Samuel 15:17-21) Samuel told Saul that God had rejected him from being king, "It is better to obey than to offer a sacrifice... Being proud is as evil as worshiping statues of gods..." I Samuel 15: 22-23 NIV) The Spirit of the Lord left Saul. (I Samuel 16:14) Samuel tried to help Saul follow God. God wants us to love and obey Him. The Bible says that to love God means that we obey his commands. It also says that His commands are not hard to obey. (I John 5:3) Jesus was obedient to God. God sent Jesus to help us learn to obey Him.

#### Review Questions

1. **Who was Saul?** (Saul was the king of Israel.)
2. **What did Samuel tell Saul to do?** (Samuel told Saul to wait for him to come offer a sacrifice.)
3. **What did Saul do?** (Saul did not wait for Samuel and offered the sacrifice himself.)
4. **What else did Saul do?** (Saul did not obey God's command to destroy the Amalekites.)
5. **What did God do?** (God rejected Saul as king.)

#### Do you know Jesus?

Jesus was obedient to God. He was even willing to die on the cross for our sins. Jesus rose from the dead so that we can know God and walk in obedience to Him. Would you like to know God personally? Ask Him to be a part of your life.

#### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us obey God.
3. Ask God to help you obey Him.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to follow God.

#### Application

Samuel gave Saul instructions from God. But Saul disobeyed. Saul did not take responsibility nor repent. Instead he made excuses. So God rejected him as king. Disobedience is sin and sin has consequences. God wants us to love and obey Him. His commands are not hard to obey. (I John 5:3) When we become believers, He sends His Holy Spirit to live in us to help us know Him and to help us love and obey Him.

**Planning for the next week:**  
**David and Bathsheba (A King Destroys a Family) — II Samuel 11-12**

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: I Samuel 13:6-13 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

(Decorate your class in military camouflage. Bring sand in a bucket to use as you tell the story.)

Saul had been the king of Israel for one year when the Philistines got together to fight Israel. The Philistine army had 3,000 chariots, 6,000 chariots drivers, and so many soldiers that they were like the grains of sand on the beach.

When the Israelites saw that there were so many Philistines and that they were in trouble, they hid. Some hid in wells, others hid in rocks and pits. Some of the men stayed with Saul but they were very scared.

Saul had to wait seven days because that is what Samuel told him to do. Samuel would offer a sacrifice once he got there. But the men were really scared so Saul decided that he would offer the sacrifice. (I Samuel 13:1-9) Saul was the king but he was not a priest. Only the Jewish priests were allowed to offer a sacrifice. (Leviticus 1) So when Samuel arrived, he could smell the burning animals which Saul had sacrificed.

Saul went to greet Samuel. But Samuel asked Saul what he had done. Saul made excuses. He told Samuel he had not come when he said he would. Saul told Samuel that he was afraid to fight the Philistines without praying to God so he offered the sacrifice.

Samuel told Saul that what he had done was very foolish. (I Samuel 13:10-13) Samuel told Saul, "You haven't obeyed the command the Lord your God gave you... now your kingdom won't last." (I Samuel 13:13 NIV) Saul made a big mistake. But even worse, Saul did not feel sorry for doing wrong (repent). God wants us to feel sorry for doing wrong things. God wants us to say we sinned and to ask Him to forgive us. When we ask Him for forgiveness, He forgives us. (I John 1:9)

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us obey God.
3. Ask God to help you feel sorry when you do wrong.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers can learn to say, "I'm sorry."

Consider this: Ask two children to volunteer. Have them pretend to want the same toy. Ask them to say, "I want it." "I had it first." At the end ask one child to say, "I'm sorry. You can play with it first." Let everyone try it. Talk about the importance of being sorry for doing wrong. Talk about the importance of saying, "I'm sorry."

## Learning Activities

**Memory verse activity** — Bring a ball or a bean bag. When the children have learned the verse, have them say one word and then toss the ball to someone so that they can say the next word in the verse. Do this several times to practice the verse.

**Test your memory** — Bring toy animals and toy soldiers. Use sheep and cattle to tell about Saul's disobedience. Have the children retell the story.

**Taste activity** — Bring green candy (lime flavored- like military camouflage). Talk about how Saul was a warrior king.

**Think about it** — Saul was unwilling to wait for Samuel to arrive. He offered a sacrifice knowing that it was a role only a priest had. Talk about the importance of waiting on God.

Saul made excuses and did not take responsibility for his disobedience. Talk about the importance of confessing our sins. Use Scripture like I John 1:9 and James 5:16.

Ask two children to volunteer. Have them pretend to want the same toy. Ask them to say, "I want it." "I had it first." At the end ask one child to say, "I'm sorry. You can play with it first." Let everyone try it. Talk about the importance of being sorry for doing wrong. Talk about the importance of saying, "I'm sorry."

**Touch activity** — Bring a crown, a sword, and a shield. Have the children make their own swords and shields out of foil. Bring a large towel that can serve as a robe.

**Run and play** — When the Israelites saw how numerous the Philistines were, they ran and hid. Have the children run and pretend to hide behind rocks, and trees, etc.

**Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that God wants us to love Him and obey Him.

**Sing** — Sing "Obedience," "Trust and Obey," or other songs related to the story.

## Memory Verse

Here is  
what it means  
to love God.  
It means  
that we  
obey his commands.  
And his commands  
are not hard to obey.  
(1 John 5:3 NIV)

## Word Art

Trace the letters.

Saw

did

not

obey

God

# Word Puzzle

L T D N I F D L L I H P  
H E E E I T S L O I H P  
S X U S Y N R S O T R N  
J C T M E E F S H T N U  
B U M I A O B G G E S T  
K S U M P S I O E R V E  
D E N E E F H A S E P V  
F S E N O F S I R I A S  
Y D S E V E N I G C D S  
B M O T F G R S D N J S  
A R R R D O L A O T I V  
S G C A C T X D Y N Y K

KING

ONE

FIGHT

SAMUEL

TOLD

DISOBEYED

EXCUSES

ARMY

SEVEN



# Word Puzzle

L	T	D	N	I	F	D	L	L	I	H	P
H	E	E	E	I	T	S	L	O	I	H	P
S	X	U	S	Y	N	R	S	O	T	R	N
J	C	T	M	E	E	F	S	H	T	N	U
B	U	M	I	A	O	B	G	G	E	S	T
K	S	U	M	P	S	I	O	E	R	V	E
D	E	N	E	E	F	H	A	S	E	P	V
F	S	E	N	O	F	S	I	R	I	A	S
Y	D	S	E	V	E	N	I	G	C	D	S
B	M	O	T	F	G	R	S	D	N	J	S
A	R	R	R	D	O	L	A	O	T	I	V
S	G	C	A	C	T	X	D	Y	N	Y	K

KING

ONE

FIGHT

SAMUEL

TOLD

DISOBEYED

EXCUSES

ARMY

SEVEN

## Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F A N K B N T P M C W N  
P D B M S A U L J S V N  
W C X J K N F S R G P L  
E N S E V E N K D S C H  
M N J R B R F J P W R S  
B R P R F O N E Y D K L  
S A M U E L T M L F G W  
R F G V K I N G H E R D

KING

ONE

SEVEN

FIGHT

SAMUEL

SAUL

# Word Puzzle For Younger Children

F A N K B N T P M C W N  
P D B M S A U L J S V N  
W C X J K N F S R G P L  
E N S E V E N K D S C H  
M N J R B R F I G H T S  
B R P R F O N E Y D K L  
S A M U E L T M L F G W  
R F G V K I N G H E R D

KING

ONE

SEVEN

FIGHT

SAMUEL

SAUL

## Anagram

1. EDIYBOS -
2. GORNW -
3. EMIKATS -
4. EEUCXS -
5. SESONCF -
6. AOMNMDCS -
7. ELVO -
8. DARH -

## Anagram

1. EDIYBOS – DISOBEY
2. GORNW – WRONG
3. EMIKATS – MISTAKE
4. EEUCXS – EXCUSE
5. SESONCF – CONFESS
6. AOMNMDCS – COMMANDS
7. ELVO – LOVE
8. DARH – HARD