

SAUL DISOBEYS GOD**I Samuel 15**

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 34:16 – **“The face of the Lord is against them that do evil,** to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.” (Portion printed in bold is for grades 1 & 2.)

Lesson Aim: The Lord rejects those who disobey Him from doing His work; we need to obey the Lord if we want to be His servant.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes.)

KEY (for Attention): Do you like to eat off of plates that are dirty? Do you like to drink milk from glasses that have bugs in them? No, of course not. I'm sure your mother makes sure you eat from clean dishes.

Do you like to use dirty bandages to cover your cuts and sores? Would you use a dirty rag to clean you cut? No, of course not. You must have clean bandages or you will infect your wound with a disease.

When the Lord wants a person to do a job for Him, He wants a clean person. He does not want to use a person that is dirty with sin. He chooses a person that has been cleansed of his sin by the precious blood of Jesus. He chooses a person that hates sin and loves to obey Him. In today's lesson we are going to talk about a man that did not want to be clean in his heart. He loved his sins. Do you think the Lord wanted to use him? Do you think the Lord will want to use us if we love our sins?

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us the answer to these two questions. Let us read it together and then I will explain it. (Have it printed on a large card and have every student find it in his Bible. Read it from the Bible first and then explain the verse using the card.)

Explanation of the verse:

“The face of the Lord is against them” – the Lord's face scowls and His eyes get narrow when we sin

“Evil” – to sin by doing bad things; to disobey God

“To cut off the remembrance of them” – the Lord will turn away from them and people will forget them

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In today's lesson we will see why the Lord turned away from King Saul. The Lord would no longer give him special wisdom and power to be king as He had done before. Besides this, the Lord would allow many problems to come into his life and would not protect him any longer. Instead, He would be against him. Be careful that you do not mistreat the Lord as Saul did. (The following outline is given to help the teacher remember the main parts of the lesson. Teach the lesson as a story.)

I. Command of God (15:1-3)

God told Saul to destroy the Amalekites and all that they had because they had tried to destroy Israel when they were traveling from Egypt to the land that God had promised to them.

WE: We must obey God's commands found in the Bible or He will punish us with troubles.

II. Crime of Saul (15:4-9)

Saul obeyed the part of the command where he agreed with God, but he disobeyed God when he agreed with his soldiers. He wanted to keep the best things of the Amalekites for himself and his soldiers, so he did not destroy the best things. He even kept King Agag alive as a prize to show the power he had.

WE: We have no right to obey the part of God's command that we like and disobey the part we do not like. When God tells you to obey your parents, do you have the right to obey your parents whenever it pleases you? No. That is sin against God's command. So we must obey all that God tells us to do.

III. Covering of Sin (15:10-15)

God told Samuel what Saul had done and it made Samuel very sad. Then Samuel went to visit Saul. When Saul saw Samuel, he lied and said he had kept God's commandment. He tried to cover up his sin with a lie, but Samuel knew better, because God had told him the truth.

WE: We cannot hide anything from God. He sees everything that we do; He even knows our thoughts.

IV. Condemnation of Saul (15:16-23)

Samuel told Saul that it was God who had made him king when he was unknown. It was God who had given him the command to destroy everything of the Amalekites and not to save the best. Samuel did not listen to Saul's excuse about his soldiers saving the best animals for sacrifice. He said that it was better to obey than to sacrifice. Since he had rejected God's command, God had rejected him as king and would choose another to take his place.

WE: We will be punished when we sin against God and then try to cover up our sin by lies. It is a serious thing to disobey God. If you disobey your parents or God's leaders, you are disobeying God. If you do not confess your sin and stop doing it, God will reject you like He did to Saul.

V. Confession of Saul (15:24-35)

When Saul heard that he was rejected by God, he confessed his sin (15: 24, 30). However, he was not deeply sorry for his sins. Instead of humbling himself before God, he asked Samuel to honor him before the people. Samuel knew that Saul was not sincere about confessing his sin. Such confession is not acceptable to God and he was not forgiven. After Samuel left Saul, he never saw him again.

WE: We must be deeply sorry for our sin when we confess it. We must humble ourselves before God and let Him decide what to do with us. If we are truly humble, He will forgive us and lift us up (Jam 4:10; 1 Pet 5:6). If we say the right words in our confession, but do not hate our sin, God will not forgive us. Also, it is not wise to wait until God begins to punish you to confess your sins. Such a confession of sin usually is not sincere and it does not please God. Confess your sins as early as you realize that you have sinned.

BE (for Action): How did Saul sin? (He disobeyed God's command.) What two things did he do when he was caught? (He lied and then he blamed his soldiers for keeping the best animal to sacrifice.) What happened to Saul when he tried to cover his sins? (His kingdom would be taken away from him and given to another person.) Do not follow King Saul's example.

Have the children bow their heads. Tell them to ask God to bring to their minds any sins that they have not hated and confessed. Remind them not make any excuses for their sins. If they want to obey God and sincerely confess their sins, have them raise their hands. Pray for them and ask those who raised their hands to stay and confess their sins to God. They can pray alone or you can pray with those who want your help.