



LESSON 31

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Disobedience. God sometimes gives us what we ask for, even when it's bad for us.

Bible Character(s): Samuel

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 8-10



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Please read 1 Samuel 8-10 before this weekend. As you

read it, think through the things you desire and pray for on a regular basis. Have you ever stopped to think that the things we desire might not be what God has for us? God created us; He knows us better than we know ourselves. He created us and He sees the big picture. When we desire certain things, even things that are good (marriage, having children, succeeding in our jobs, etc), we often begin to trust our desires rather than trusting in God's plan for our lives. We see others who have these things and think that they are exactly what we need. Think through the things you pray for - are you truly open to God's will? Are you willing to let go of your desires and trust that God's plan for you is much better than the things you think you need?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

I Want That!

Ask your campers if they have ever had a friend or someone they know who had something they really wanted. Make a list of the different things. Ask why the campers wanted them and if they thought they deserved to get whatever they wanted.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will focus on what the Israelites are trusting. They choose to disobey God and trust their plan over God's plan. God gave them what they asked for, even though it was not the best thing for them.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? What did the Camp Director want to do about the four-wheeler and jet ski? (He wanted to wait to get them until they all knew how to safely use the vehicles.) What did the staff members want? (He/she wanted it right away, did not care what the Camp Director wanted to do.) What ended up happening? (The staff members got his/her way, trusting in himself and disobeying what the Camp Director wanted and it did not work out well.)

Who can remember what book we finished studying last week? We ended our study on Ruth. What did we learn about Ruth? That's right, we saw how faithful Ruth was to Naomi, and how God rewarded Ruth for her faithfulness and kindness. How did God reward Ruth? God provided for her and blessed her with a husband.

Today we begin our study of I Samuel. The Israelites do not have a king. There have been different judges who have ruled, and now Samuel is the judge. Samuel is getting old. He has been the judge over Israel for many years. As Samuel gets older, he appoints his sons to lead Israel. They are not as responsible as Samuel. They do not follow God like they should. The Israelites decide they want a king. All the nations around them have kings and they want one too.

Let's begin by reading the Bible in I Samuel 8 [NLT] to see what happens.

I Samuel 8:4-8

4 Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. 5 "Look," they told him, "you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have."

6 Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the Lord for guidance. 7 "Do everything they say to you," the Lord replied, "for they are rejecting me, not you. They don't want me to be their king any longer. 8 Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment."

The Israelites deserted God and His plan for them. They asked for a king because they did not want to acknowledge that God is their king. They did not act out of grateful hearts for all God has done for them. Instead, they followed only what they wanted.

Where Are You Looking?



The purpose is to see how the Israelites stopped looking to God for their direction and looked around, instead.

Supplies:

Direction slips (1 set per bin)

Bowl for the slips (1 per bin)

Have the campers spread out around the cabin. Put the direction slips into the bucket/bowl. Explain that you will pull out a direction and the campers are to turn their heads in that direction. Make sure all directions are called out several times. After the activity, ask the campers the following questions:

- What did you see when you looked straight up?
- When you looked to the right or left, did you get distracted by where the other campers were looking?

Tie It Together



Some of you were distracted by what direction other campers were looking in. It was hard to look in the correct direction when others around you seem to be looking in a different direction just because of where they are standing. It can be distracting, can't it? The Israelites were distracted, too. All of the countries around them had a king, and they wanted one, too. They were distracted from God's plan for them. Instead of "looking up" and seeking out what God wanted for them, the Israelites looked around them and wanted what others had. The Israelites decided that they did not want to follow God's plan. They thought their plan of having a king was better than God's plan.

Let's see how God responds to Israel's choice to trust in themselves and their own plan, rather than God's plan.

Act it Out



The purpose is for the campers to act out the passage to better understand what happened.

Supplies:

Bibles: 1 Samuel 8:9-10, 19-22

Ask for volunteers to act out the passage. One can represent Samuel, one can represent God, and the rest can represent the Israelites. Act it out several times so different campers can be involved in different ways.

Tie It Together



How did the Israelites respond to Samuel's warning from the Lord? The Israelites chose to disobey God. Why do you think they chose to disobey God? They cared more about what they wanted than listening and obeying God. They chose to trust their own plan - wanting a king - instead of trusting God's warning to them through Samuel.

Our Plan or God's Plan?



The purpose is to find areas in our own life where we are trusting in ourselves instead of God.

Supplies:

"God's Plan" sign (1 per bin)

"Our Plan" sign (1 per bin)

Teacher's Guide – Situations side (2 per bin)

Put the "God's Plan" sign on one side of the room and the "Our Plan" sign on the other. Have campers stand at the table, with the chairs pushed in. Once a situation is read out loud, have campers walk to the side of the room they feel the situation represents – God's plan or our plan. Talk about the situation and their choice(s) and have them return to the table before reading the next situation.

Tie It Together



The Israelites are not the only ones who chose to disobey God by trusting in themselves. We also choose to trust our own plan instead of God's plan. When we trust in our own plan, we are not trusting that God knows what is best. We think we know what is better for us than God does. Can you think of times when you trust in your plan and not God's plan? (Allow responses.) God gave the Israelites what they asked for, even though it was bad for them, because they decided not to trust God.

Let's continue reading the Bible in 1 Samuel to see who God places as their king.

1 Samuel 10:17-24

17 Later Samuel called all the people of Israel to meet before the Lord at Mizpah. 18 And he said, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, has declared: I brought you from Egypt and rescued you from the Egyptians and from all of the nations that were oppressing you. 19 But though I have rescued you from your misery and distress, you have rejected your God today and have said, 'No, we want a king instead!' Now, therefore, present yourselves before the Lord by tribes and clans."

20 So Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel before the Lord, and the tribe of Benjamin was chosen by lot. 21 Then he brought each family of the tribe of Benjamin before the Lord, and the family of the Matrites was chosen. And finally Saul son of Kish was chosen from among them.

24 Then Samuel said to all the people, "This is the man the Lord has chosen as your king. No one in all Israel is like him!"

And all the people shouted, "Long live the king!"

Give and Get



The purpose is to see that when we choose to disobey, God might give us what we ask for, even when it's bad for us.

Supplies:

Teacher's Guide – Scenarios & Questions side (2 per bin)

Read through the scenarios provided and then read the question that corresponds with each scenario. Encourage discussion among the campers as they answer the questions.

Tie It Together



There are many times that we think we know what is best for ourselves. We think our plan is better than God's plan. We disobey God by trusting in ourselves and our plan rather than trusting in God and His plan. Sometimes God gives us what we ask for, even if it's bad for us. God gives us what we want (our plan) to show us that His plan is better. He knows what is best for us, and He wants us to trust our life to Him.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you trust in Him, the One who knows best, instead of yourselves.



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