



LESSON 32

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: God demands complete obedience.

Bible Character(s): Saul

Scripture Reference: 1 Samuel 15



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read 1 Samuel 15. God gave Saul instructions to completely destroy the Amalekites because they attacked Israel. Saul was told not to spare any of the Amalekites or their livestock. Saul obeyed God in attacking the Amalekites, but he had their King, Agag, captured alive and kept all of the best livestock to offer as a sacrifice to God. God demands complete obedience, but He also gives us the choice to obey Him or make our own decisions. Saul had the choice to fully obey God, but he only partially obeyed God. Partial obedience is disobedience. Because Saul disobeyed, God took away Saul's position as king.

How do you approach God's demand of complete obedience? Do you pick and choose what you want to obey? Do you have a heart that desires to obey Him completely? In what area do you struggle with obedience? Spend some time praying to God for a change of heart and the courage to obey His commands completely.

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!

Simon Says

Play Simon Says with your campers as an illustration of how complete obedience is good and disobedience has its consequences.



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 look at Saul's disobedience and the consequences he suffered for it. God demands complete obedience from us.

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 were the staff members doing? (Building a campfire.) What happened when one staff member decided to do things his own way? (He caught his pants on fire.) Why does God want us to do things His way? (Because He has a plan for us and knows what is best; He demands complete obedience from us.)

Last week we began our study in 1 Samuel. We saw that the Israelites wanted one thing that the other countries surrounding them had. What did they want? That's right, they wanted a king. God warned them of the consequences that would come with having a king. Did the Israelites listen and trust God's warning spoken through Samuel? No, they wanted a king anyway. They did not listen to God and chose to go about things their own way. Was this a good thing for Israel? No, but God gave them what they wanted anyway. Their king was Saul.

This week, we are going to continue with our study by reading the Bible in 1 Samuel 15 [NLT]. Let's get started.

1 Samuel 15:1-3

1 One day Samuel said to Saul, "It was the Lord who told me to anoint you as king of his people, Israel. Now listen to this message from the Lord! 2 This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies has declared: I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. 3 Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation – men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys."

Note: If any of your campers struggle with the fact that God commanded Saul to kill even the children and babies, remind them that "sin impacts others." The Amalekites were evil people; their sin impacted their whole nation, even their children. However, do not get sidetracked from today's principle of *God demands complete obedience*. If they have further questions, refer them to their parents.

Saul's To Do List



The purpose is to have the campers identify all the instructions given to Saul and then check off his "to do" list.

Supplies:

Saul's To Do List poster (1 per bin)

Teacher's Guide – "Saul's Instructions" side (1 per bin)

Read the NIV version of 1 Samuel 15:1-3 from the poster with the specific set of instructions Saul was to follow. Have the campers fill in the poster with the instructions Saul was to follow. List the following: Attack the Amalekites, Set apart everything to be destroyed, Don't spare any of the Amalekites, Kill the cattle, sheep, camels and donkeys. (The teacher can write on the poster or can have a camper or campers do the writing.) Talk through the different instructions you've listed.

Tie It Together



God gave Saul specific instructions on how to go into battle with the Amalekites. He was to attack the Amalekites, set apart everything to be destroyed, and not spare any of the Amalekites. Saul understood what he was asked to do. He had the choice to either obey God's commands or choose to make his own decisions and rule in his own way. God commands complete obedience from us. He wants us to choose to follow His commands completely. Let's keep this list with us as we finish the story to see if Saul chose to obey God completely or if he chose to make his own decisions.

Let's continue reading the Bible.

1 Samuel 15:4-6

4 So Saul mobilized his army at Telaim. There were 200,000 soldiers from Israel and 10,000 men from Judah. 5 Then Saul and his army went to a town of the Amalekites and lay in wait in the valley. 6 Saul sent this warning to the Kenites: "Move away from where the Amalekites live, or you will die with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up from Egypt." So the Kenites packed up and left.

Let's stop and examine our list so far. Has Saul obeyed God? Is there anything he has not done? We'll check off anything that he has obeyed so far. No check marks yet.

Let's continue reading the Bible.

1 Samuel 15:7-9

7 Then Saul slaughtered the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, east of Egypt. 8 He captured Agag, the Amalekite king, but completely destroyed everyone else. 9 Saul and his men spared Agag's life and kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs—everything, in fact, that appealed to them. They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality.

How did Saul do? Are all of the instructions he was commanded to obey checked off? Select on the top check mark. Did Saul obey God completely, or only partly? How did he not obey God?

King-size Consequences



The purpose is to see that everyone suffers the consequences for disobedience.

Supplies:

Crown (1 per camper)

Give each camper a crown. Explain that they are to identify the consequences Saul experienced for his disobedience as you read through the following scripture below, 1 Samuel 15:10-11, 16-23. Ask them to write the consequences on their crown. If time allows at the end of the lesson, they can color/decorate their crowns.

Tie It Together



We saw that Saul did not completely obey God's commands. Instead, he chose to obey what he wanted to obey. Saul put himself above God by deciding to follow his own desire instead of following God. He did not fully obey God. Partial obedience is disobedience. When there is disobedience, there are consequences.

Let's read the Bible and see how God responded to Saul's disobedience. We'll write down the consequences that came to Saul for his disobedience.

1 Samuel 15:10-11

10 Then the Lord said to Samuel, 11 "I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command." Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the Lord all night.

God knew that Saul spared the best of the livestock and King Agag, and he was not happy that Saul did not obey his commands. Saul only partially obeyed God's commands.

Samuel went to Saul to confront him for his disobedience. Saul tried to explain that they kept all of the best of the livestock to offer as a sacrifice to God. Samuel then told Saul what his consequences were.

Let's read the Bible to find out what consequences Saul suffered for his disobedience. You can write them on your crown as you hear them.

1 Samuel 15:16-23

16 Then Samuel said to Saul, "Stop! Listen to what the Lord told me last night!" "What did he tell you?" Saul asked.

17 And Samuel told him, "Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord has anointed you king of Israel. 18 And the Lord sent you on a mission and told you, 'Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.' 19 Why haven't you obeyed the Lord? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the Lord's sight?"

20 "But I did obey the Lord," Saul insisted. "I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. 21 Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal."

22 But Samuel replied,

*"What is more pleasing to the Lord:
your burnt offerings and sacrifices
or your obedience to his voice?"*

*Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,
and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.*

23 Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft,

and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.

*So because you have rejected the command of the Lord,
he has rejected you as king."*

Saul chose to disobey God by not following all of his commands. Saul did not mistakenly follow only part of God's commands; he knew what he was told to do and he chose to only do what he wanted. Disobedience comes with consequences. Saul's consequence for his disobedience (sin) was that God rejected him as king. He lost his kingship because he did not obey God completely.

Obedience is Best



The purpose is for the campers to examine their own lives to see where they struggle with obedience.

Supplies:

Teacher's Guide – "Situational Topics" side (1 per bin)

Discuss the different situational topics with your campers. Have them explain examples of how they would be disobedient (including partial obedience) for each topic. Also explain how they would be completely obedient in every situation.

Tie It Together



We just talked through some different examples in your life where you have the choice to completely obey or disobey. When we choose to fully obey our parents, teacher, or anyone else in authority, we are ultimately choosing to obey God. We are indicating that we want what God wants for us, so we are willing to lay down our desires in order to do what God thinks is best. If we choose to only partially obey, or just completely disobey, then we choose to disobey God and show that we do not trust that God's plan is the best for our life. God loves us dearly and knows what is best for each of us. He wants us to trust in His plan. He gives us commands to follow, and by following those commands we choose to obey Him. Sometimes it can be difficult to obey because we may disagree or think we have a better idea, but no matter what God still wants us to completely obey so that we can experience the full joy of the life He has to offer us.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help you trust in Him and obey His commands.



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