

Old Testament

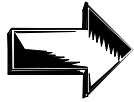
Saul makes mistakes 1 Sam. 13 and 15

Younger Verse

Let your light shine. Matthew 5:16

Older Verse

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in Heaven. Matthew 5:16



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Can you think of the last mistake you made? Often, when we make mistakes, it is because we are impatient or do not listen to instructions. Let's see what happens in today's lesson.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned that Samuel heard God's voice when he was a boy. When he grew up, he became the preacher and the person who told people what God said.

When he grew old, God's people came to him and asked for a king. They wanted a king to rule over them like other countries had.

Samuel talked to God about their request. God was sad because they were rejecting Him as king. God told Samuel to warn the people of what the new king would do. He shared how the king would make the sons and daughters serve in armies and in other areas.

Samuel told the people of the consequences of this decision. The people did not listen and demanded a new king. God showed Samuel the man who would be king. His name was Saul. He was a very tall man. At first, Saul was a good king. He trusted God and followed Him. Later, He began to be prideful and forgot God.

There was a group of evil people who were the enemies of God's people. They were called the Philistines. These are the same people who tortured Samson. One famous Philistine was Goliath. We will learn about him in a few weeks.

As long as Samuel was the leader, God helped the people win their battles with the Philistines.

When Saul became king, he gathered many men to fight the Philistines. The Philistines also had many warriors. Before every battle, Samuel would have a special time to pray and ask

Lesson Goals

See how important it is to obey God
Learn that it is better to accept responsibility than make an excuse
Share how mistakes can cause many problems

God for help. Samuel told Saul to gather the troops and wait 7 days for him.

Saul waited 7 days for Samuel to come. On the 7th day, Saul became impatient. He was tired of waiting and wanted to fight. Saul decided to lead the special time of prayer instead of Samuel.

Just as they finished, Samuel arrived. He asked, “What have you done?”

Saul began to give excuses. He did not ask for forgiveness. Samuel told him that he was foolish to disobey God. Now God was going to find another king for His people.

Another time, Samuel told Saul that God wanted His people to totally destroy the evil Amalekites. They had hurt God’s people many years before while they were in the desert. Samuel told Saul that the army must destroy EVERYTHING—people and animals.

Saul fought the Amalekites and won. However, instead of following God instructions, He took prisoners and kept alive the best sheep and cattle.

Saul was proud of himself and raised a statue in his own honor. At this same time, God told Samuel what Saul had done. Samuel was so disappointed. He prayed for Saul all night. The next morning he went to see Saul.

Saul greeted Samuel and told him that he had followed God’s instructions. Samuel looked at Saul and said, “What is it that I hear—sheep and cows?”

Saul quickly said that he saved these animals for God. Saul offered another excuse.

Samuel told him that because of his disobedience, God had rejected him as king.

Saul realized his sin and asked for forgiveness. God forgave him, but because of his disobedience, God decided to choose another king.

Saul chose to make excuses instead of accepting responsibility for his wrongs. He became very prideful and powerful. He trusted in himself instead of God. In our own lives, we make mistakes too. Instead of blaming someone else or making excuses, it is better to confess the mistake and make it right. There are consequences for mistakes, but by taking responsibility, it shows honesty and builds back trust.

The Bible tells us that all of us have sinned, or made mistakes. Because of our sin, we are separated from God; however, God loves us and made a way for us to be forgiven for our wrongs. God’s Son, Jesus, took our punishment for our wrongs by dying on the cross. The BEST news is that He did not stay dead; He rose from the dead 3 days later. If we believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive our wrongs, He will clean out our wrongs and come into our life. He will stay with us forever and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about this, please talk to us about it.

Learning Activities

Help the kids see the importance of telling the truth and obeying God.

Memory Verse Activities

Write the verse using chalk on a dark piece of paper or construction paper. Talk about how we can be lights at home, at school, in the apartments.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help us obey Him this week. Ask Him to give us courage to be honest and take responsibility when we have done wrong.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Munch on snacks together and talk to the kids about what is going on in their lives.

Planning for Lesson 44
David will be king
1 Samuel 16

Preschool Lesson
For
Saul makes mistakes

Last week we learned that Samuel heard God's voice when he was a boy. When he grew up, he became the preacher and the person who told people what God said.

When he grew old, God's people came to him and asked for a king. They wanted a king to rule over them like other countries had.

Samuel talked to God about what the people wanted. God told Samuel to warn the people that the new king would make things harder for their families.

Samuel told the people what their mistake would mean, but the people did not listen and demanded a new king. God showed Samuel the man who would be king. His name was Saul. He was a very tall man. (Stand on your toes) At first, Saul was a good king. He trusted God and followed Him. Later, He began to love himself more and love God less.

There was a group of evil people who were the enemies of God's people. They were called the Philistines. One famous Philistine was the giant Goliath. We will learn about him in a few weeks.

As long as Samuel was the leader, God helped the people win their battles with the Philistines.

When Saul became king, he gathered many men to fight the Philistines. The Philistines also had many warriors. Before every battle, Samuel would have a special time to pray and ask God for help. Samuel told Saul to gather the troops and wait 7 days for him.

Saul waited 7 days for Samuel to come. (Count to 7) On the 7th day, Saul became impatient. He was tired of waiting and wanted to fight. Saul decided to lead the special time of prayer instead of Samuel.

Just as they finished, Samuel arrived and asked, "What have you done?"

Saul began to make excuses. He did not ask for forgiveness. Samuel told him that he was foolish to disobey God. Now God was going to find another king for His people.

Saul did not listen and obey God and his mistake hurt many people.

God wants us to listen and obey Him. God cares for us and will help us if we trust Him.

Sing this song to the tune of "M-I-C-K-E-Y M-O-U-S-E"

What are we to do when God says special words to us
L-I-S-T-E-N, Listen to the Lord

Listen now, (Listen now)
Listen well (Listen well)

God will tell us what to do (Yeah, yeah, yeah)

So, listen when you hear his voice and obey His word
L-I-S-T-E-N, Listen to the Lord.

Hands-On Activities For Saul makes mistakes

For younger kids, make crowns out of construction paper and glitter glue. Ask them to share things that they think kings do (you may get some fun answers). Talk about how important it was for Saul to obey God. Ask them to explain what happened when Saul did not obey (God decided that he would no longer be king.)

When we forget to do something, or possibly do something wrong, it is easy to make excuses or reasons why we did not complete the task. Saul tried to make excuses as to why he had done wrong. Instead of making excuses, God wants us to admit our wrong and take responsibility for our mistakes.

Try the egg experiment object lesson on the next page to show what happens when you have a hard heart.

Talk with your kids about patience. Ask them to describe times when they had to be patient (ex: going somewhere, waiting on someone, waiting for something exciting etc.) Share how important it is to be patient and kind instead of impatient and rude.

Try these two object lessons:

As long as a kite is attached to a string, it will fly high up in the sky. You may think that since it is pulling and tugging on the string, that it would go higher if it were set free. But it is not so, If you let go of the string, the kite will soon nose dive. That's the way it works with obeying God. We may think we would go farther in life, have more fun if we didn't have to obey God. However, when we obey God, He keeps us soaring high in the sky. If we ever cut the string, and decide obeying God is too much trouble, then eventually we will do a nose dive and crash. In our lesson today, Saul decided to do things his way and "cut" the string. Because of his decision, everything "crashed" around him. Eventually, he was no longer king. What can we learn from this lesson? (Wait for answers) When we obey God, He helps us soar high.

Bring an unsharpened pencil and a sharpener. Share that the useful part of a pencil is in the middle. And in order for it to be useful, something sharp has to wear away the outer covering. In our lives, in order to be useful to God, we must scrape away our pride and selfishness. Saul was like the unsharpened pencil. He was hard hearted and did not wait to obey God. Because God could not "sharpen" him, he was not useful to God. He tried to do things his way which was not the best way. God was not pleased. In the end, God chose another king that would listen and obey His commands.

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What kind of heart do you have?

Supplies:

1 boiled egg

1 raw uncooked egg

What you will do:

Before class, hard-boil one egg and let cool. Mark one egg with an "A" and the other with a "B." You will show the class that the hard-boiled egg can be spun around like a top, but the uncooked egg will not spin. You will compare the hard-boiled egg to someone with a hardened heart. Like you can spin the hard-boiled egg, someone with a hardened heart will do things for themselves instead of serving God.

What you will say:

I have here two eggs. They look the same don't they? I need one volunteer. Great! (Give the volunteer the hard-boiled egg.) What I would like you to do is spin this egg around like a top. That was easy wasn't it? Now I need another volunteer to spin this other egg. Great! (Give the second volunteer the uncooked egg.) What's wrong, why can't you spin this egg. Explain that the difference between the two eggs is that one is hard inside, the other is still liquid. The one with the hard inside can be spun around.

The hard-boiled egg is like Saul who had a hardened heart and who did not love the Lord with all his heart. Because of his hard heart, he did things that were wrong. However, someone who obeys God, and does not let his or her heart become hardened cannot be spun around influenced by others. That person will do things God's way and serve Him.

We must make sure our hearts remain soft and love the Lord with all our heart.

(Adapted from an object lesson found on the web)
