



Saul Disobeys God

1 Samuel 13:1–14; 15:1–34



LESSON GOAL

Students will submit to the authority of God's Word and obey it completely.

BIBLE TRUTHS

- Saul was not obedient to God's instructions.
- God did not allow Saul to remain as king.
- God expects obedience from His servants.

KEY VERSE

"Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).

APPLICATION

- Obey God's Word completely.
- Trust that Jesus died to save sinners.
- Worship God through your obedience.

NEXT WEEK

God Sees David's Heart
Read 1 Samuel 16.

Symbol Key



Craft



Finger Play



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Center



Activity



Q & A



Age Group

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

“Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children” (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God’s Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

When the people of Israel sinfully rejected the Lord as their king, He gave them exactly the kind of king they wanted. From man’s perspective, Saul was the perfect king. He was tall and handsome (1 Sam. 9:2) and an adept military leader (1 Sam. 11). He was also well prepared by God to be the king of Israel. The Lord anointed Saul (1 Sam. 10:1) and approved his confirmation through miraculous signs (1 Sam. 10:2–16), special selection (1 Sam. 10:20–24), and the Spirit’s empowerment (1 Sam. 11:6). Even though Israel had spurned the Lord’s right to rule His people, the Lord graciously established Saul as king over Israel. Despite their sin, Israel could still be blessed if both they and their king obeyed the Lord’s commandments (1 Sam. 12:13–15, 20–25). In 1 Samuel 13:1–14 and 15:1–34, Saul revealed that he was not fit to be the king of Israel because he would not totally submit to the Lord’s commandments. Because of his sin, the Lord rejected Saul as king over Israel.

Saul’s First Rebellion (1 Sam. 13:1–12)

After Saul’s son Jonathan attacked the Philistines (1 Sam. 13:3), the Philistines launched a massive retaliatory force against Israel (13:5). The overwhelming number and power of the Philistines caused Israel to scatter, some of them even crossing the Jordan to escape (13:6–7). Following Samuel’s command, Saul waited with his assembled troops seven days in Gilgal (13:8). When the seventh day came and Samuel did not arrive, Saul’s “trembling” troops began to leave (13:7–8). Saul decided to offer the burnt and fellowship offerings without waiting for Samuel (13:9). Before Saul could finish the fellowship offering, Samuel arrived (13:10).

The exact nature of Saul’s disobedience is hard to pinpoint. It is unlikely that Saul had sinned in presenting the sacrifice since later both David and Solomon would do so without rebuke (2 Sam. 24:24; 1 Kings 8:62–64). Most likely Saul had disobeyed by not waiting for Samuel to arrive. Saul quickly offered three excuses for his sin: the people were scattering, Samuel had not arrived in the appointed time, and the Philistines were threateningly close (1 Sam. 13:11–12). Saul did not want to enter battle without first offering “supplication to the LORD” and disobeyed God because he “felt compelled” (13:12). Saul exalted his own understanding and his perceived needs above God’s Word.

The Beginning of the Lord’s Rejection (1 Sam. 13:13–14)

Samuel’s rebuke of Saul was severe. Samuel said, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you” (1 Sam. 13:13). Saul’s rejection of God’s Word had serious consequences. The Lord had been willing to establish Saul’s kingdom if he had obeyed, but now Saul’s kingdom would not continue. Saul’s descendants would not have the privilege of reigning over Israel because of Saul’s sin. Instead, the Lord had chosen a “man after His own heart” and “commanded him to be commander over His

people” (13:14). God already had decided who would be the next king over Israel. What terrible consequences for the family of Saul! Saul attempted to worship the Lord without submitting to His commands. But this dishonors the Lord rather than exalts Him. The king of Israel would not be allowed to so blatantly disregard the sovereign King. The Lord was seeking a king with a high regard for Himself.

Saul’s Second Rebellion (1 Sam. 15:1–9)

The Lord was not finished with Saul. Samuel came to him with a special assignment from the Lord and reminded him of the fact that the Lord had anointed him. Samuel called Saul to “heed the voice of the words of the LORD” (1 Sam. 15:1). The Lord had chosen Saul to be the instrument for fulfilling the long-prophesied destruction of the Amalekites, the people who had first attacked Israel after they left Egypt (Ex. 17:8–16). He was commanded to utterly destroy Amalek, killing every person and animal (1 Sam. 15:3). The Lord had rejected Saul’s family from reigning over Israel, but Saul still had the responsibility and privilege of obeying the Lord’s command.

Instead of glorifying God, Saul chose to disobey. “Saul and the people spared Agag [king of the Amalekites] and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all that was good...but everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed” (1 Sam. 15:9). God had granted total victory, but Saul fell short of total obedience.

Announcement of the Lord’s Rejection (1 Sam. 15:10–34)

Samuel first heard of Saul’s disobedience from the Lord. The Lord told Samuel, “I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments” (1 Sam. 15:11). How incredible that God, who never changes His mind (15:29), is still moved by the sin of man! Using the same word He used to express His grief over having created man (Gen. 6:6), the Lord expressed to Samuel His sovereign regret over Saul’s sin. The Lord wanted Saul to obey Him! He had known that Saul would disobey, yet He still was grieved over Saul’s rejection of His authority. That night Samuel learned from the Lord Saul’s punishment (1 Sam. 15:16, 23). Samuel was “grieved” by the Lord’s message and “cried out to the LORD all night” (15:11), perhaps interceding for both the people of Israel and their king.

When Samuel met Saul at Gilgal, Saul said, “Blessed are you in the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD” (1 Sam. 15:13). Saul’s greeting reveals either a deceitful heart or a heart that believed God could be pleased with partial obedience. Samuel quickly confronted Saul’s sin by asking where the sheep came from (15:14). Saul began to justify his action by blaming the people and saying that the flocks and cattle were intended as sacrifices to the Lord (15:15). Samuel reminded Saul that he was king only because of the Lord’s choice. He asked him why he had disobeyed and done evil in the Lord’s sight (15:16–19). Again, Saul claimed that he had obeyed the Lord and blamed the people for taking the animals for sacrifices, as if that would justify the action (15:20–21). Samuel destroyed Saul’s justification, proclaiming that the Lord delights in obedience rather than sacrifice (15:22). Saul wanted to worship according to his directions and not the Lord’s. This was not partial obedience but disobedience and rebellion. Samuel’s words are harrowing: “Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry” (15:23). Saul could not hide behind a veneer of worship; he had a heart full of self-exaltation. Samuel announced Saul’s punishment: “Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king” (15:23).

On hearing the Lord’s judgment, Saul admitted that he had sinned, explaining that

he had “feared the people and obeyed their voice” (1 Sam. 15:24). Saul’s confession was followed by a request for Samuel to return with him so he could worship the Lord (15:25). Saul was desperate to have Samuel’s presence so that he would not lose credibility among the people. Samuel understood Saul’s attempt to retain kingship and again pronounced the Lord’s judgment that He had rejected Saul as king (15:26). The realization of the finality of God’s judgment was too much for Saul. As Samuel tried to leave, Saul seized his robe. Referring to the torn piece of robe in Saul’s hand, Samuel said, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you” (15:28). Samuel’s admonishment that God is not a man who relents (15:29) revealed what Saul really wanted: for God to change his mind. Saul again admitted he had sinned and more honestly expressed his desire that Samuel accompany him at worship so he would not be dishonored before the elders and the people of Israel. Saul had lost the throne in God’s sight but was not willing to lose the people’s respect. Samuel returned and completed the destruction of the Amalekites by killing King Agag (15:31–33). Samuel and Saul’s relationship was permanently ruptured (15:34–35). The announcement of judgment brought no pleasure to Samuel, who mourned for Saul. Although God never changes His mind and always does what He pleases, He “regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel” (15:35).

Conclusion

Although God had selected a king for Israel, His sovereign hand never stopped controlling events. He had chosen Saul as king, knowing that he would be too proud to obey God as He required. Saul thought it was better to offer sacrifices than to wait as Samuel had commanded. Saul thought it was better to spare the animals and king than to obey God’s command to totally destroy the Amalekites. Saul’s “worship” was only polished idolatry, and his rebellion was disguised witchcraft. What a sobering evaluation of religious exercise that does not align with God’s commands! Saul was not the right king for Israel because he exalted his will above God’s; his obedience was never complete. God’s rejection of Saul had been decreed in eternity past, but God still desired for Saul to obey. He was grieved by Saul’s sin. God desires that men worship as He commands and not as they wish. Saul never truly repented of his sin, and God instead chose another man to be king, a man after His own heart.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth" (Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Review Questions

Use these questions to review and reinforce key truths.

Who ruled, judged, and fought for Israel?

God ruled, judged, and fought for Israel.

How did this make the Israelites different from all other nations?

All the other nations had mere men ruling, judging, and fighting for them, but Israel had God. No man could ever do as good a job at being king as God.

Why did the Israelites say they wanted a king?

The Israelites said that they wanted a human king so that they could be like all the other nations.

What did God say was the real reason they wanted a human king?

God said that the people wanted a human king because they were rejecting Him as their king.

What did Samuel say would happen if they had a human king?

Samuel told the people that having a king would be very costly. Three words are used again and again in Samuel's speech to the people: "he will take" (see 1 Sam. 8:11, 13–17).

After God warned the people, through Samuel, of what would happen if they had a human king, did the Israelites still want one?

Yes; the Israelites still wanted a king. Even though it would cost them a lot, they refused to change their minds.



Justifying Sin

This week's lesson is a good example of a man's attempt to justify his sin. We justify sin when we try to make excuses for it or blame someone else. Ask the students for some excuses they sometimes make for their sin. You may have to help them recognize this practice ("I was not listening because Mary was talking to me"; "My sister started the fight"; "I did not clean up because I forgot"; "I am ungrateful because I do not have as much as other children"; etc.) Explain that we make our sin even worse when we try to justify it (1 John 1:8–9). We must confess our sin to God as soon as we become aware of it.



Obedience Pleases God

Ask the students whether they ever have tried to do something good, only to have it turn out all wrong (for example, trying to bake a cake and it did not come out

right; trying to make mom some coffee and then spilling it; helping carry something and then dropping it). If we want to please God, we cannot do it in whatever way we think is right; we must obey God's Word completely. God is more pleased by our obedience than anything else we can do for Him (1 Sam. 15:22–23). You may want to revisit the story of Achan in Joshua 7, who did not obey God completely; his sin resulted in Israel being defeated in battle.



Repentance

Repentance means literally to “turn around” or “change one’s mind.” Explain to the students that when we have sinned, God expects us to repent. That means we must confess our sin to God and turn away from it and go in the opposite direction. Turning away from sin means that we do everything we can to never repeat that sin again. Going in the opposite direction means that we replace that sin with a right action. We can replace selfishness with kindness, lying with telling the truth, laziness with hard work, etc. (Eph. 4:17–32). Use the opportunity to explain to the students that they need to turn to Christ and ask for forgiveness and the ability to obey.



Following Instructions

Place a piece of candy in front of each student while he sits coloring or waiting for class to start. Tell the students not to touch the candy until you say that they can. If any students disobey, take away their candy. Explain that they lost the candy because they did what they wanted instead of following instructions. In today's story, Saul was rejected as king because he disobeyed instructions.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

“Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done” (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

The people of Israel decided that they did not want the Lord as their king anymore. They asked for a human king, and God gave them Saul. Saul was everything the Israelites wanted in a king. He was tall and handsome, and he was very good at commanding the armies. God had prepared Saul to be king. He had chosen and anointed Saul, and had shown the Israelites that this was who He wanted to be their king. God was very gracious to the Israelites, because even though they had been sinful in asking for a human king, God said He would bless them if they and their king obeyed His commandments. Everyone knows that he should be obedient to God. And everyone knows what God wants him to do and not to do. But does everyone always obey? No! We disobey so often that we forget how sinful and wrong it is to disobey God. In this lesson, we learn about what happened when Saul disobeyed God.

The Israelites were at war with the Philistines. The Philistines had a great army, but so did the Israelites. Saul had sent his son Jonathan and part of Israel's army to attack the Philistines, but the Philistines sent an even bigger army to the Israelites to get back at them. The Philistines army was huge! They were very strong and powerful. When the Israelites saw what was coming to attack them, they ran! They ran everywhere; some of them even crossed the Jordan River to escape. Saul had to take charge of things, and the prophet Samuel gave him instructions. Samuel told him to wait seven days with the troops he had gathered in Gilgal. So Saul went to Gilgal and waited. He waited and waited. The seventh day came, and Saul was still waiting for instructions from Samuel for what to do next. The troops started to get scared and leave. So Saul decided to give up on Samuel and take things into his own hands. Saul wanted to go to battle with the Philistines but decided to give an offering to the Lord first. Before he was done with the offering, Samuel showed up. Saul began to give all sorts of excuses for why he did not obey and wait for Samuel. But there is never a good excuse for disobeying God. Saul had decided that He needed a better plan than the one God had given him through the prophet Samuel.

Samuel rebuked Saul severely. He said, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you" (1 Sam. 13:13). God had told the Israelites that He would bless them if they and their king obeyed His commandments, but King Saul had disobeyed Him. Saul had tried to worship God by offering a sacrifice without obeying God's commandments. But such a sacrifice does not honor God. We cannot truly worship God without being obedient to Him. So God rejected Saul's rule over Israel. He would not allow Saul's son to be the next king of Israel. God was going to choose a different king. Saul's sin would have consequences for him and his whole family.

But the Lord was not finished with Saul. Samuel came to him with a special assignment from the Lord. Even though God would not allow Saul's family to rule over Israel forever, Saul was still God's anointed king at that time, and he had the responsibility and privilege of obeying God anyway. God's special assignment for Saul was to destroy the Amalekites. The Amalekites were the first people who had attacked the Israelites after they left Egypt, and God was judging them for it. Saul was given the assignment of completely destroying them. God said to destroy everything and not to keep anything for themselves. But Saul did not obey God. He did attack the Amalekites, and he easily won the battle, but he kept the best of the animals, and he did not kill the Amalekites' king, Agag. Saul chose not to obey God completely, and God would judge him for it.

God told Samuel that Saul had disobeyed Him. He said, "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments" (1 Sam. 15:11). God had wanted Saul to obey Him, and even though He knew that Saul wouldn't, He was still sad about it. That night, God told Samuel what Saul's punishment would be, and Samuel cried out to the Lord all night long.

Samuel went to meet Saul at Gilgal. Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD!" (1 Sam. 15:13) Saul was either lying to Samuel, or he actually thought that God would be pleased with his partial obedience. But Samuel didn't let him get away with it. He confronted Saul with his sin. He asked him where all these good animals had come from. Saul came up with many excuses. He tried to blame the Israelites by saying that they were the ones who took them, and that he had obeyed God. He said that the Israelites would use the animals for sacrifices. But Samuel did not accept Saul's excuses. In fact, he told him that there was no such thing as partially obeying God. You either obey God or you disobey God. Then he told Saul what God's punishment was. God had said that Saul's kingship would be taken away. When Saul heard that, he

confessed his sin, saying that the Israelites had asked him to keep the animals and spare King Agag, and he was afraid not to give them what they wanted. He was still trying to make excuses for his sin! He asked Samuel to come with him to worship God. He wanted Samuel with him so that the Israelites would see them and think that he was still in God's favor because Samuel was with him. But Samuel knew what Saul was really doing. Again, Samuel pronounced that Saul's kingship would be taken away. Saul was so upset that he grabbed and ripped Samuel's robe as he tried to leave. Samuel looked at Saul and said that just as the robe had been torn, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you" (1 Sam. 15:28). He and Saul did not have a good relationship after that. Samuel went to complete the job that Saul had not finished, and he killed King Agag.

Even though God had chosen Saul as the king of Israel, He had never stopped controlling events. He knew that Saul would be too proud to obey Him. Saul thought he had better plans than God's plan, and he disobeyed God. Saul was not the right king for Israel because he put what he wanted before what God had commanded. So God was going to choose another king for Israel, a king who would be "a man after his own heart."



Lesson Questions

Who were the Israelites at war with?

The Philistines.

How long did Samuel tell Saul to wait?

Seven days.

Was Saul obedient to Samuel's instructions?

No; he decided to offer the sacrifice without Samuel.

What was the consequence for Saul's disobedience?

His family would no longer be in the kingly line.

What was Saul told to do next?

Saul was told to destroy the Amalekites.

Was Saul obedient?

No; he destroyed only some things and not everything as he had been commanded.

What happened because of his disobedience?

Samuel told Saul that he would lose the kingdom to another man.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



The Clock

As you begin to teach about Saul's first rebellion in 1 Samuel 13:1–12, show the students an alarm clock or timer. Set the timer, and tell them to wait for it to go off before doing something (such as eating the snack you have already handed them, or talking). Talk about Samuel's instructions to Saul, referred to in verse 8. Also talk about how long Saul did wait but in the end took matters into his own hands.



Can You Wait?

Saul disobeyed God when he became impatient waiting for Samuel. Snack time may be used to demonstrate how this might have felt for Saul. Hand the students their snacks, but give them specific instructions (only once) not to eat them until they are given permission. You may want to teach a part of the lesson and then highlight for the students how difficult it was for them not to eat their cookies. Some may have failed to obey completely. This is exactly what happened to Saul. It is important to realize that every time we choose to sin, it is very serious to God.



Doing It Just Right

Obedience means following God's instructions completely. To illustrate this, bake three kinds of cookies: one that contains wrong ingredients, one that was not left in the oven long enough, and one that is just right. Show the cookies to the students, or have a few come and sample them. Explain what is wrong with each of the cookies. God requires us to follow His "recipe" book very carefully. This may be a good opportunity to present the gospel to the students, explaining that only Jesus could follow God's instructions perfectly.



Obey Completely

Bring to class a tape or CD with sounds of sheep or cows. This can be downloaded from the Internet or recorded at home. (You may even be able to find a toy that makes these sounds.) At the appropriate point in today's lesson (1 Sam. 15:13–14), have someone play the tape or CD from a place where the students cannot see it. At the exact time when Saul was saying that he had obeyed, Samuel heard the animals and knew that God's instructions had not been followed.



The Bad News

Have adult helpers act out the part of today's story where Samuel tries to leave after telling Saul that the kingdom will be taken away from him. The person playing Saul should be on his knees. The person playing Samuel will wear an old robe or costume that has been prepared to tear at the corner. The person playing Saul can reach out and tear off the corner of the robe. He should have the piece in his hand. Have the person playing Samuel read 1 Samuel 15:28.



What's That Sound?

As you teach, instruct the students to make some of the animal sounds that Samuel would have heard when coming to find Saul. Some students can be the cows, others the sheep, etc. In addition, several teachers could act out the scene while the students add the animal sounds at the appropriate time.

Praise and Worship

Holy, Holy

Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord

Seek Ye First



The B-I-B-L-E
Trust and Obey

Saul Disobeys

Samuel was a little late;
(Point to wrist.)

Saul decided not to wait,
(Shake finger.)

Chose to do things his own way,
(Cross arms.)

But it's not right to disobey.
(Shake head "no.")

Against the Lord, Saul did rebel,
(Point up; make fist.)

With selfish and impatient will.
(Cross arms in front of chest and tap foot.)

What result did his sin bring?
(Hold hands at sides, palms up; shrug shoulders.)

God rejected Saul as king.
(Hold hands, palms out, one direction; turn head away.)

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



"Saul's Incomplete Obedience"

Materials: copies of the "Saul's Incomplete Obedience" craft page on cardstock, cotton balls, hay or strips of yellow or brown construction paper, glue, scissors

Directions: Cut off the side strip and fold in quarters so that words are on inside. Decorate sheep with cotton balls. Glue folded strip in marked rectangular area, and decorate as a bale of hay by gluing on hay or strips of yellow or brown construction paper.



"Motive Locomotive"

Materials: copies of the "Motive Locomotive" craft sheet, brads, scissors, crayons

Directions: Have students color each of the train pieces. Next, have them cut out the pieces and assemble the trains using brads.



Wait Seven Days

Bring in sets of seven objects, such as seven buttons, seven markers, or seven toys. Instruct the students to count to seven. (You also could give each student a set of seven small objects to glue to a take-home sheet.) Explain that in today's lesson, King Saul was instructed to wait seven days for Samuel to come give a sacrifice. Saul waited but didn't see Samuel, so he disobeyed and gave the offering himself. This activity will give younger students a concrete understanding of how long Saul had to wait for Samuel.



Obedience Application

Test how well the students have learned today's lesson. (This activity could also be used during the teaching time if Saul and Samuel's roles are being acted out.) Begin with one teacher representing Saul and another representing Samuel. (Or "Saul" could be a younger teacher's assistant.) Give each student a small piece of candy. Samuel should instruct the students not to eat the candy until he returns. Then he should leave the room, leaving Saul behind with the students. While Saul is alone with the students, he should ask how many of them would like to eat the candy now. Then he should begin to make the students doubt that Samuel will return. He can say that if Samuel doesn't come back in 15 seconds, they should just eat the candy without him. Saul should count to 15 and then eat the candy. Some of the students likely will eat their candy, too. Samuel should come back into the classroom shortly after the candy is eaten. Discuss with the students how they were told to be obedient and not eat the candy until Samuel returned. Just as they were tempted to disobey, Saul was tempted to disobey and do what he wanted.

Coloring Sheets

Give each student copies of the coloring sheets at the back of the lesson. Students can color the pages in class or at home.



MEMORY VERSE

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Samuel 15:22).

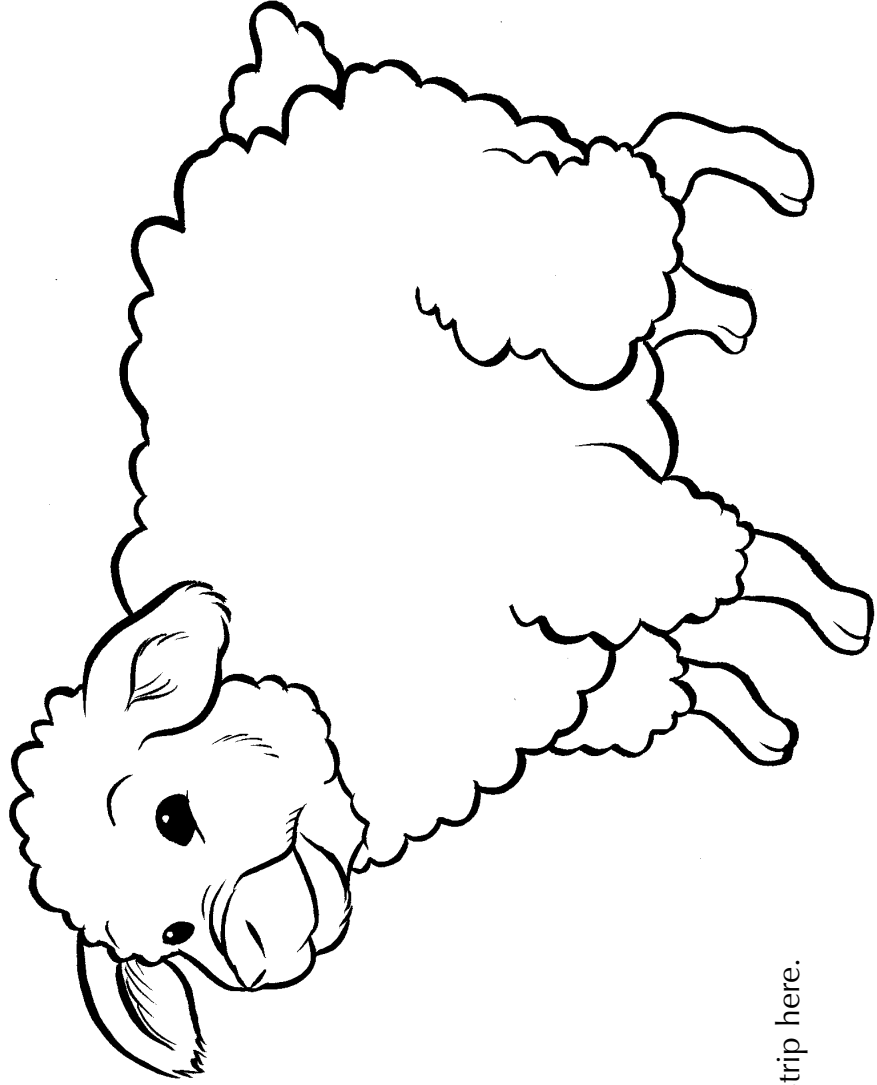
Saul's Incomplete Obedience

God told Saul to destroy all that Amalek had, including ox, sheep, donkey, and camel (1 Sam. 15:3).

But Saul said, "...the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen...but the rest we have utterly destroyed" (1 Sam 15:15).

"And Samuel said, 'Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD?'

Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the the fat of rams'" (1 Sam. 15:22).



Glue folded strip here.

Motive Locomotive

**Your motives drive
what you do.**

**Motive
Locomotive**

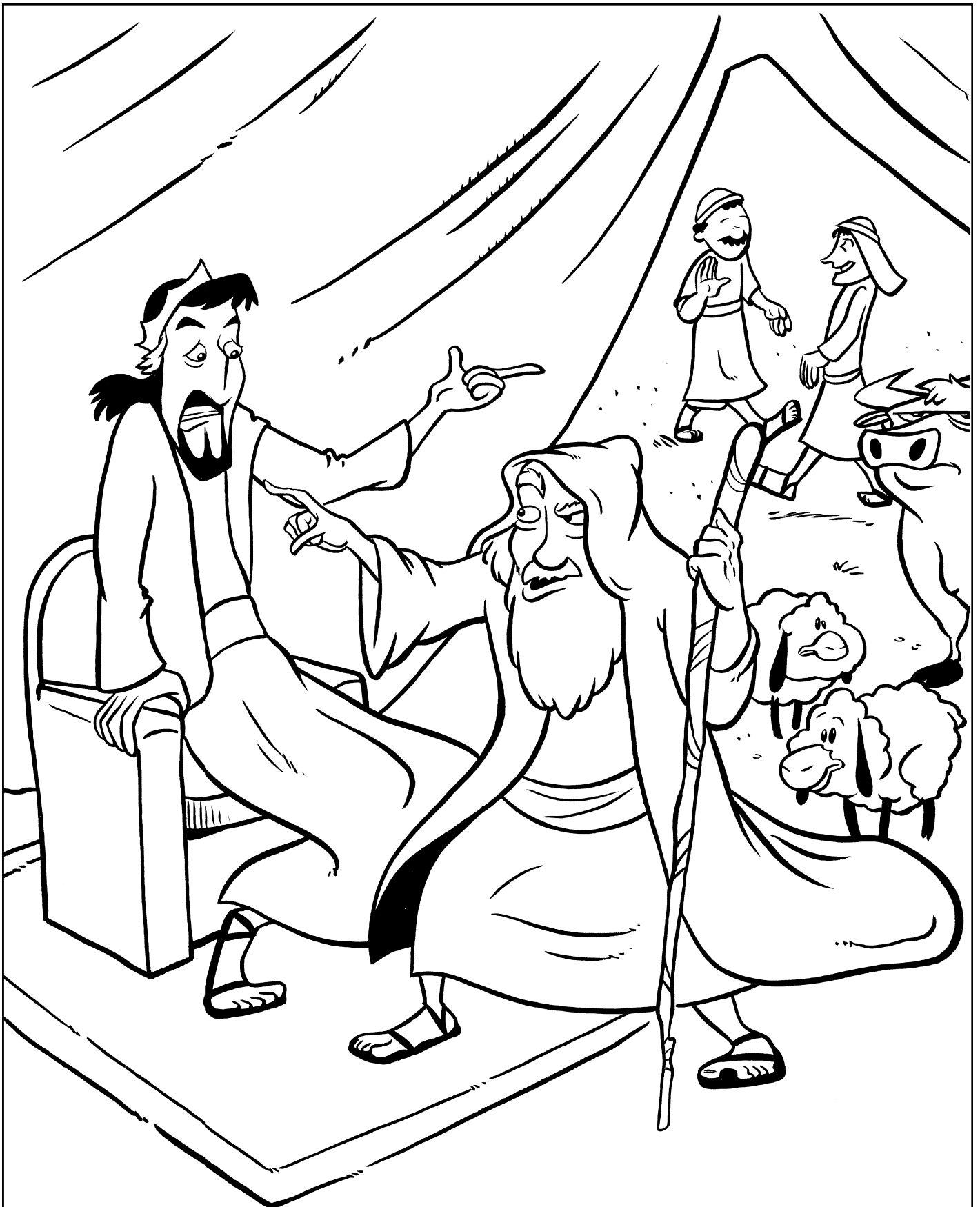
What are your motives?

- To love God and obey Him
- To serve yourself or please other people





**“So Saul said, ‘Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.’
And he offered the burnt offering” (1 Samuel 13:9).**



“So Samuel said: ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams’” (1 Samuel 15:22).

