

HomeWord
For Parents

Today's lesson occurred two years after Saul became king. Israel was afraid of the Philistines who seemed about to attack (1 Samuel 13). Saul was in Gilgal and the people with him were trembling with fear (1 Samuel 13:6–7). Saul felt the need to ask a blessing from God through a burnt offering to request God's protection. However, Samuel, the Lord's priest and prophet, was the only one who could make sacrifices to the Lord. Samuel had told Saul to wait for him (1 Samuel 13:8), but Samuel had not arrived yet. Impatiently, Saul made the sacrifice despite God's commands and Samuel's instructions. Saul disobeyed and failed to trust the Lord God who had made him king.

Saul continued to disobey God! And as we move to 1 Samuel 15, we see Saul again making his own rules, this time in a battle against the Amalekites.

God had clearly commanded Saul to destroy all of that tribe, including women, children, and livestock (1 Samuel 15:3). But Saul considered his own wisdom over God's wisdom, and he kept the king and the best of the livestock alive, presumably for the purpose of making sacrifices to God (1 Samuel 15:15).

God punished Saul's disobedience, rejecting him as king over Israel and eventually taking his kingdom from him. He no longer had the wise counsel of Samuel, the prophet; moreover, the Spirit of the Lord left Saul, allowing him to be troubled by a distressing spirit. We know that God still demands obedience from His people. Jesus made this clear in John 14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." We are called to obedience to our God.

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord For Family Discussion

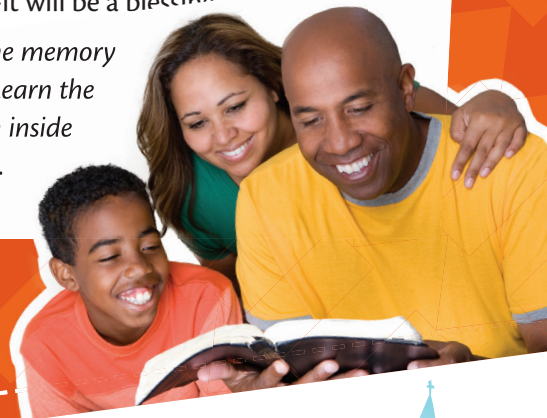
Suppose you are talking to your friends, and they say they don't understand why God is so strict. After all, don't we obey Him most of the time? Don't we do pretty much of what He asks us? We really aren't that bad! **What would you say?**

I guess we don't look that bad compared to some people. But we can't compare ourselves with other people. We are ALL sinners. The Bible makes that clear. And God hates sin—ALL sin. God is perfect, holy, just, and good—He gives us everything; He created us! He wants us to obey His commands. In fact, the Bible says if we love Him, we WILL obey His commands. But we can't keep all His commands perfectly. That's why He sent Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life—without any sin—and took the punishment of sinners on Himself so that whoever would believe in Him would have eternal life! That's God's mercy. That's God's love.

inWord
For Family Study

"... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). The Word of God is necessary to feed the hearts and minds of your children for all eternity. Memorize God's Word as a family—it will be a blessing.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



God Rejects Saul as King

KEY THEME

• God judges sin.

KEY PASSAGES

- 1 Samuel 13:5–14, 15:22, 15:26, 15:35, 16:14
- John 14:15



What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- Saul disobeyed God when he offered the sacrifice himself and when he spared the Amalekite king and the best livestock.
- Saul was rejected as king by the Lord and received a distressing spirit. He never saw his advisor Samuel again as a result of his disobedience.

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Why was it wrong for Saul to offer the sacrifice before battle?
- 2 Why was it wrong for Saul to spare the life of Agag and the best livestock after the defeat of the Amalekites?
- 3 What friend and counselor did Saul lose because of his sin of disobedience?



1) Only the priest could offer sacrifice to the Lord. 2) Because the Lord said to destroy them all. 3) Samuel.

Read the Word

Monday {1 Samuel 15:3}
What did God command Saul to do to the people of Amalek?

Tuesday {1 Samuel 15:15}
What was Saul's excuse for sparing the best sheep and oxen?

Wednesday {1 Samuel 15:22}
What did Samuel say is better than sacrifice?

Thursday {1 Samuel 15:19}
How did Saul react to the voice of the Lord?

Friday {John 14:15}
What will we do if we truly love the Lord Jesus?

Saturday {1 Samuel 16:7}
Can you recite this verse to your family without looking in the Bible? Can your family recite it together?

Learn the Word

Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks

But the Lord said unto _____, "Look
mlSuae

not look on his _____ or the the height
ecutnnaeo

of his _____, because I have
usttaer

_____ him. For the Lord seeth not
sedfuer

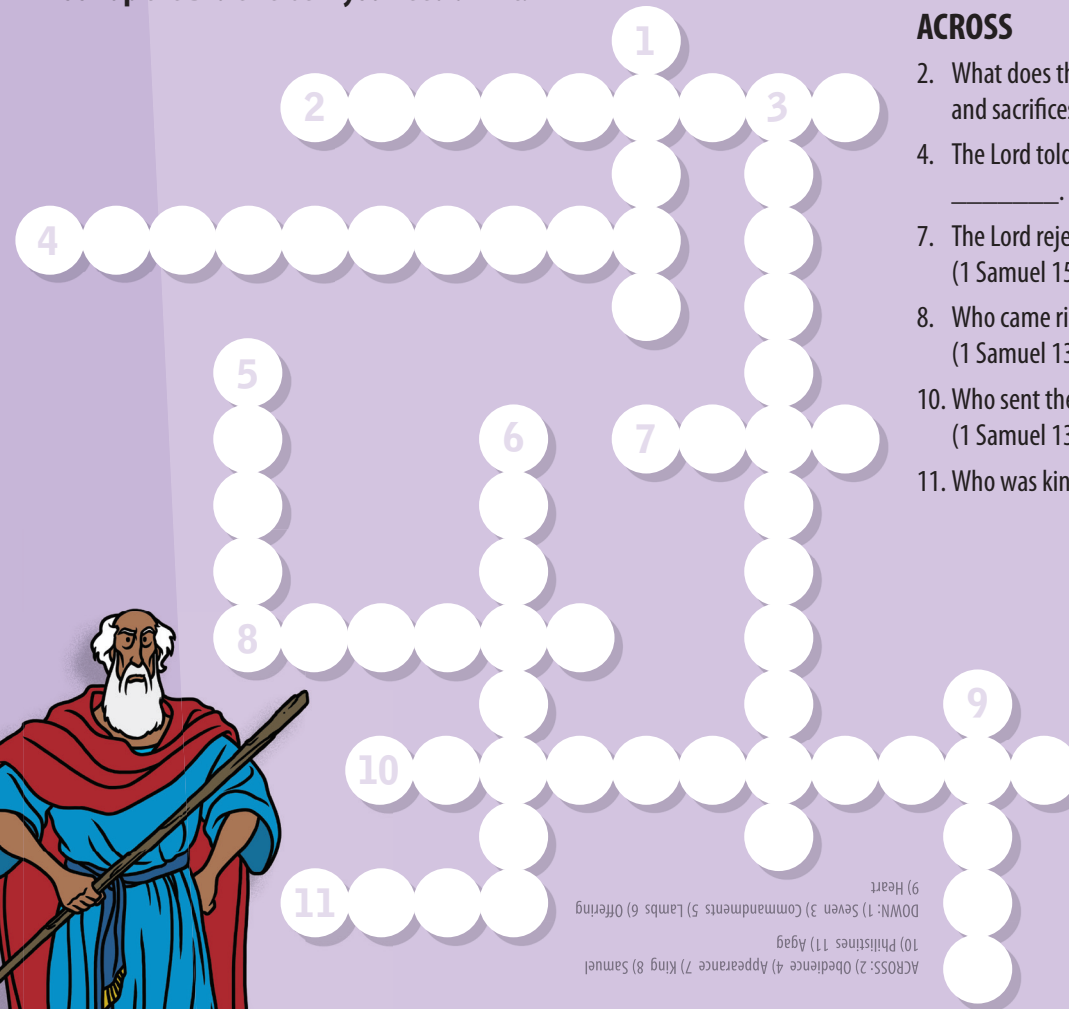
as _____ seeth; for man _____ on the
nma okhestlo

_____ appearance, but the Lord
wouartd

looketh on the _____." 1 Samuel 16:7
rehta

King Saul Crossword

Find the answers to the questions below and fill in the crossword puzzle as you recall the facts from today's lesson. Look up the Bible verse if you need a hint.



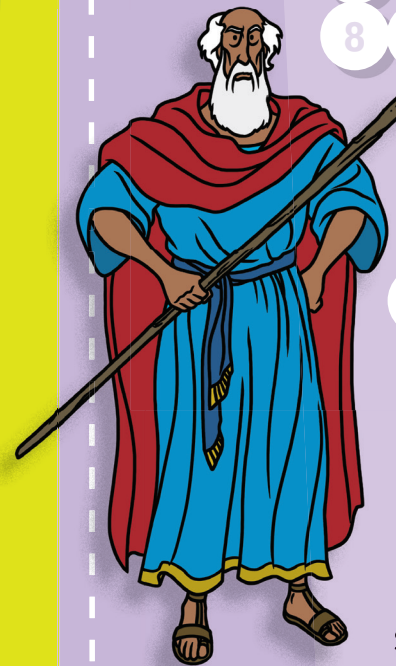
ACROSS

2. What does the Lord delight in more than burnt offerings and sacrifices? (1 Samuel 15:22) _____.
4. The Lord told Samuel not to look at his outward _____ (1 Samuel 16:7)
7. The Lord rejected Saul from being _____ over Israel. (1 Samuel 15:26)
8. Who came right after Saul made the offering? (1 Samuel 13:10)
10. Who sent the Israelites trembling and fleeing? (1 Samuel 13:5-6)
11. Who was king of the Amalekites? (1 Samuel 15:8)

DOWN

1. How many days did King Saul wait for Samuel to come? (1 Samuel 13:8)
3. If we love the Lord, what will we do? Keep His _____. (John 14:15)
5. The Israelites spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, and what? (1 Samuel 15:9)
6. What did Saul do that only Samuel was allowed to do? Presented the burnt _____. (1 Samuel 13:10)
9. The Lord looks at the _____. (1 Samuel 16:7)

ACROSS: 2: Obedience 4: Appearance 7: King 8: Samuel
DOWN: 1: Seven 3: Commandments 5: Lambs 6: Offering
9: Heart 10: Philistines 11: Agag



LIVE the Word

Suppose your friends say they don't really think the events in the Old Testament have anything to do with us today. **What could you say?**

The accounts we find in the Old Testament teach us truths that do apply to us. As you read and learn the Old Testament, you will learn things about God. You will see that God is holy, He is just and must punish sin, but He is also merciful and often forgave His people when they cried out to Him. Sometimes the Old Testament seems confusing and hard to understand. But think about who God is as you read it and remember He hasn't changed! He is a God to be feared and loved and respected and honored! And, as you read it and study it, you will find it points forward to Jesus—when God would show great mercy by sending His only Son to be the final and perfect sacrifice for sinners. All who will repent of their sins and call on the name of the Lord will be saved for all eternity!



Who will God choose to replace Saul as king of Israel? Will he be great and mighty? Find out next week!

Code of Truth

Use the code key to solve this truth from the lesson.



ANSWER: God judges sin.