

# KING SAUL OFFERS A SACRIFICE

## *1 Samuel 13:1-22*

### **1 Samuel 13**

<sup>1</sup>Saul was [thirty] years old when he became king, and he reigned over Israel [forty-] two years.

<sup>2</sup>Saul chose three thousand men from Israel; two thousand were with him at Micmash and in the hill country of Bethel, and a thousand were with Jonathan at Gibeah in Benjamin. The rest of the men he sent back to their homes.

<sup>3</sup>Jonathan attacked the Philistine outpost at Geba, and the Philistines heard about it. Then Saul had the trumpet blown throughout the land and said, "Let the Hebrews hear!" <sup>4</sup>So all Israel heard the news: "Saul has attacked the Philistine outpost, and now Israel has become a stench to the Philistines." And the people were summoned to join Saul at Gilgal.

<sup>5</sup>The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, east of Beth Aven. <sup>6</sup>When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. <sup>7</sup>Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. <sup>8</sup>He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. <sup>9</sup>So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup>Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him.

<sup>11</sup>"What have you done?" asked Samuel.

Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, <sup>12</sup>I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not

sought the LORD'S favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering."

<sup>13</sup>"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. <sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD'S command."

<sup>15</sup>Then Samuel left Gilgal and went up to Gibeah in Benjamin, and Saul counted the men who were with him. They numbered about six hundred.

<sup>16</sup>Saul and his son Jonathan and the men with them were staying in Gibeah in Benjamin, while the Philistines camped at Micmash. <sup>17</sup>Raiding parties went out from the Philistine camp in three detachments. One turned toward Ophrah in the vicinity of Shual, <sup>18</sup>another toward Beth Horon, and the third toward the borderland overlooking the Valley of Zeboim facing the desert.

<sup>19</sup>Not a blacksmith could be found in the whole land of Israel, because the Philistines had said, "Otherwise the Hebrews will make swords or spears!" <sup>20</sup>So all Israel went down to the Philistines to have their plowshares, mattocks, axes and sickles sharpened. <sup>21</sup>The price was two thirds of a shekel for sharpening plowshares and mattocks, and a third of a shekel for sharpening forks and axes and for repointing goads.

<sup>22</sup>So on the day of the battle not a soldier with Saul and Jonathan had a sword or spear in his hand; only Saul and his son Jonathan had them.

<sup>23</sup>Now a detachment of Philistines had gone out to the pass at Micmash. <sup>14:1</sup>One day Jonathan son of Saul said to the young man bearing his armor, "Come, let's go over to the Philistine outpost on the other side." But he did not tell his father.

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Why were the Philistines upset with the Israelites? (Verse 3)
5		2.) What did the Philistines do after the Israelites attacked them?
5		3.) What did King Saul do that upset Samuel? (Verses 11-12)
5		4.) Why do you think Samuel was so upset with King Saul?

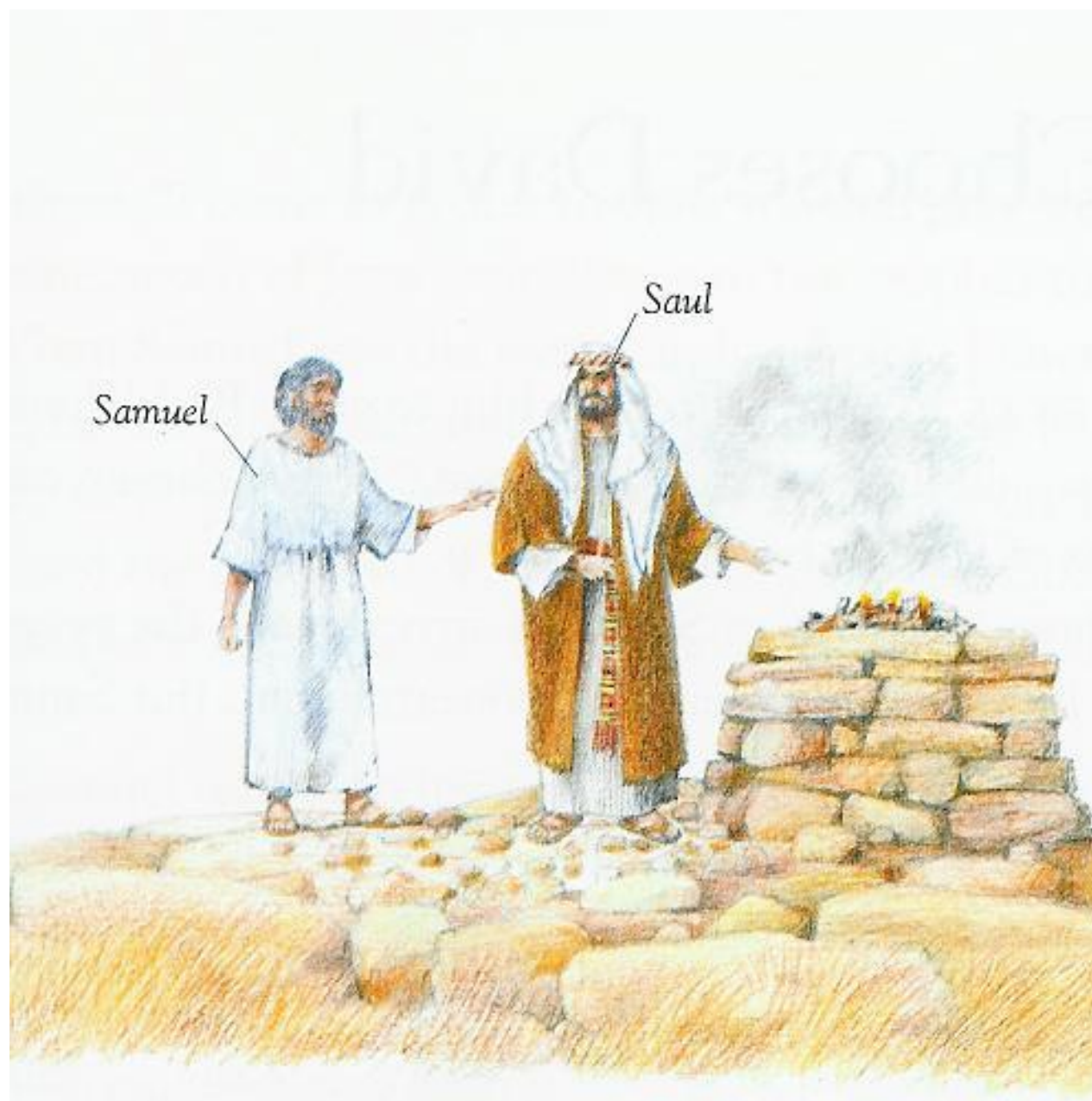
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 15:8</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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*Samuel tells Saul that he should not have offered a sacrifice to God*

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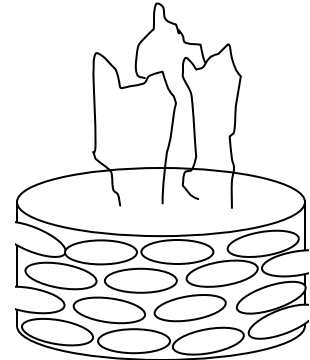
*1 Samuel 13:1-22*

## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: ALTARS

Students will make altars to remind them that King Saul offered a sacrifice to seek God's favor in light of the troubles he faced with the Philistines.

### MATERIALS

1. 67 Lb. White Cardstock
2. Altar Pattern
3. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
4. Scissors
5. Tape
6. Glue
7. Red, Orange, and Yellow Tissue Paper



### DIRECTIONS

1. Make a copy of the "Altar" pattern onto 67 lb. cardstock for each student.
2. Have students color the stones with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
3. Instruct students to cut out the altar on *all the straight solid black lines* (including the small ones between stones).
4. Have students fold on the dotted lines.
5. Help students glue or tape the tab that says "GLUE" to assemble the altar. The top "stones" need to be glued together as well.
6. Allow students to cut strips of red, orange, and yellow tissue paper to make flames.
7. Tape or glue the flames to the top of the altar.

### FOR DISCUSSION

As students are coloring their altars, remind them that King Saul was acting alone when he offered a sacrifice to the Lord. Samuel was the one who was to offer sacrifices to the Lord before the Israelites went to battle (1 Samuel 10:8). Because of Saul's disobedience and disregard for the Lord's prophet Samuel, King Saul would not pass on the throne to his sons. Saul was not supposed to reign independently of the law and the prophets. Help students realize that, as the memory verse states, the Lord would rather hear the prayer of the righteous than to receive sacrifices from them.

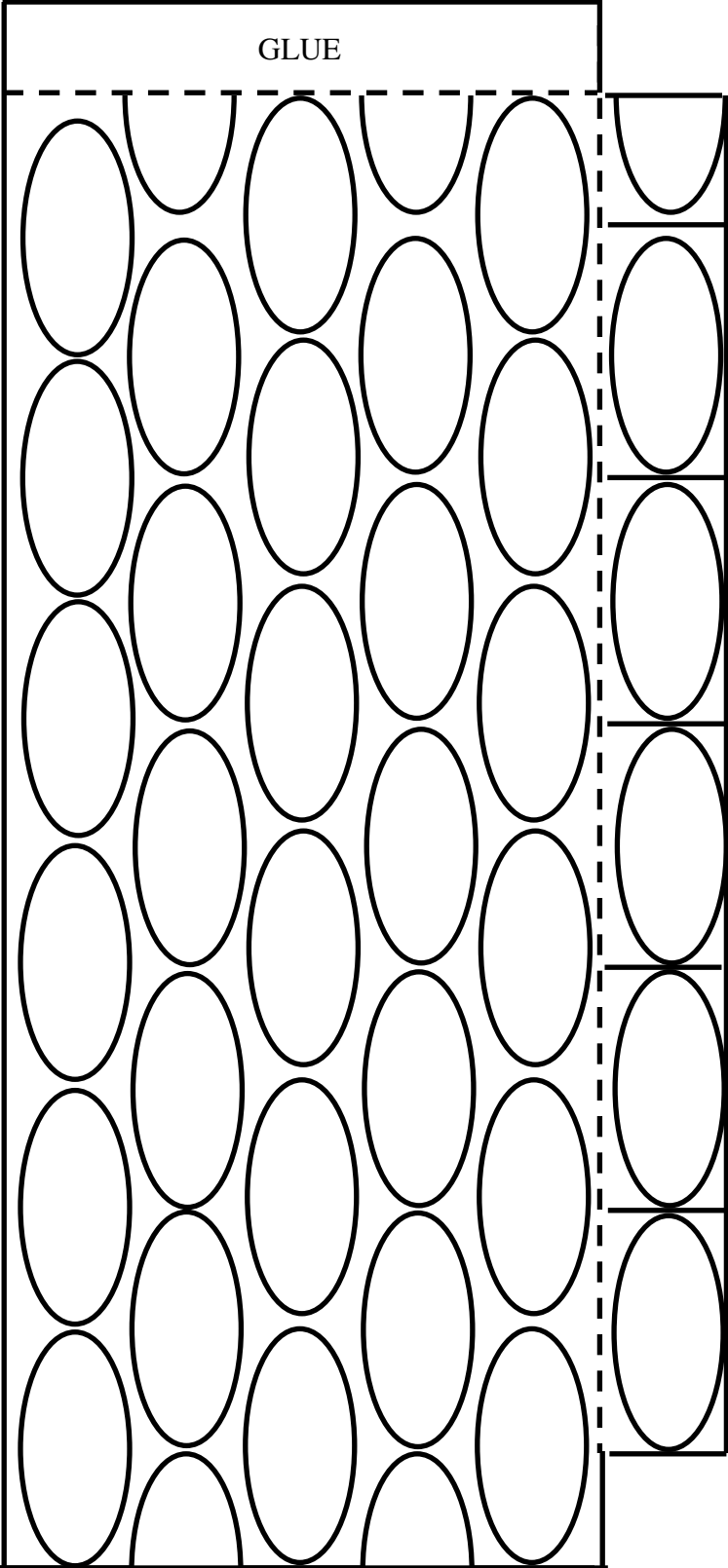
**TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:** Approximately 15 minutes

### MEMORY VERSE

*"The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him." Proverbs 15:8*

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*Today's bible story was about* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*I learned that I should*  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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*The memory verse means*  
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## **Memory Verse:**

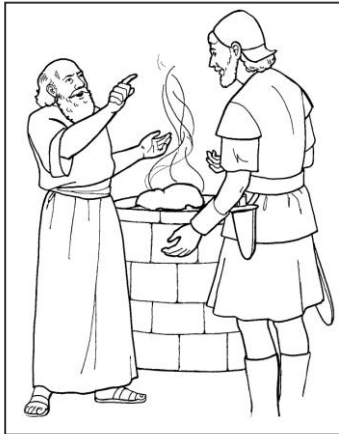
*"The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him."*

*Proverbs 15:8*

# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON 1 SAMUEL 13:1-22

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Saul gathered together 2,000 soldiers and his son Jonathan gathered 1,000. Saul sent his son and his soldiers to attack the Philistines.

Saul blew a trumpet and called together the people of Israel to tell them about the attack.

The Philistines were ready to fight back, but the Israelites realized that they were outnumbered. The Israelites got scared and hid in caves, behind rocks, in pits, and in thickets.

Saul waited seven days for Samuel to arrive and help. Saul got scared and offered up burnt offerings and fellowship offerings on his own. He was supposed to wait for Samuel.

When Samuel arrived, he asked, "What have you done? Saul, you have acted foolishly. You have not obeyed God. God will find another king for Israel."

There were no blacksmiths left in Israel so none of the Israelite soldiers had a sword or spear to fight with. Only Saul and Jonathan had them.

For more details, please read 1 Samuel 13:1-22 in the Bible.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did Saul have Jonathan do to the Philistines?
2. Why were the soldiers of Israel scared?
3. How did Saul act foolishly?
4. Why do you think Saul chose not to wait for Samuel?

## MEMORY VERSE

"The Lord detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him." Proverbs 15:8

## MATCHING

1. SAUL                    \_\_\_ A musical instrument
2. JONATHAN            \_\_\_ The king of Israel
3. SPEAR                \_\_\_ Saul's son
4. PHILISTINES        \_\_\_ A long pole with a sharp tip
5. TRUMPET             \_\_\_ Enemies of God's people