

# SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

## *1 Samuel 15:1-29*

### **1 Samuel 15**

<sup>1</sup>Samuel said to Saul, “I am the one the LORD sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the LORD. <sup>2</sup>This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy everything that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women, children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.’”

<sup>4</sup>So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men from Judah. <sup>5</sup>Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. <sup>6</sup>Then he said to the Kenites, “Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

<sup>7</sup>Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, to the east of Egypt. <sup>8</sup>He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. <sup>9</sup>But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

<sup>10</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Samuel: <sup>11</sup>“I am grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was troubled, and he cried out to the LORD all that night.

<sup>12</sup>Early in the morning Samuel got up and went to meet Saul, but he was told, “Saul has gone to Carmel. There he has set up a monument in his own honor and has turned and gone on down to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup>When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The LORD bless you! I have carried out the LORD’S instructions.”

<sup>14</sup>But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears? What is this lowing of cattle that I hear?”

<sup>15</sup>Saul answered, “The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the LORD your God, but we totally destroyed the rest.”

<sup>16</sup>“Stop!” Samuel said to Saul. “Let me tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”

“Tell me,” Saul replied.

<sup>17</sup>Samuel said, “Although you were once small in your own eyes, did you not become the head of the tribes of Israel? The LORD anointed you king over Israel.

<sup>18</sup>And he sent you on a mission, saying, ‘Go and completely destroy those wicked people, the Amalekites; make war on them until you have wiped them out.’

<sup>19</sup>Why did you not obey the LORD? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the LORD?”

<sup>20</sup>“But I did obey the LORD,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the LORD assigned me. I completely destroyed the Amalekites and brought back Agag their king. <sup>21</sup>The soldiers took sheep and cattle from the plunder, the best of what was devoted to God, in order to sacrifice them to the LORD your God at Gilgal.”

<sup>22</sup>But Samuel replied:

“Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices  
as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD?  
To obey is better than sacrifice,  
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup> For rebellion is like the sin of divination,  
and arrogance like the evil of idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,  
he has rejected you as king.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the LORD’S command and your instructions. I was afraid of the people and so I gave in to them. <sup>25</sup>Now I beg you, forgive my sin and come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD.”

<sup>26</sup>But Samuel said to him, “I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!”

<sup>27</sup>As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup>Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you. <sup>29</sup>He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.”

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POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did God want Saul to do to the Amalekites?
5		2.) What did Saul do that upset God?
5		3.) When Samuel went to leave, what did Saul do?
5		4.) Why do you think Saul set up a monument in his own honor?

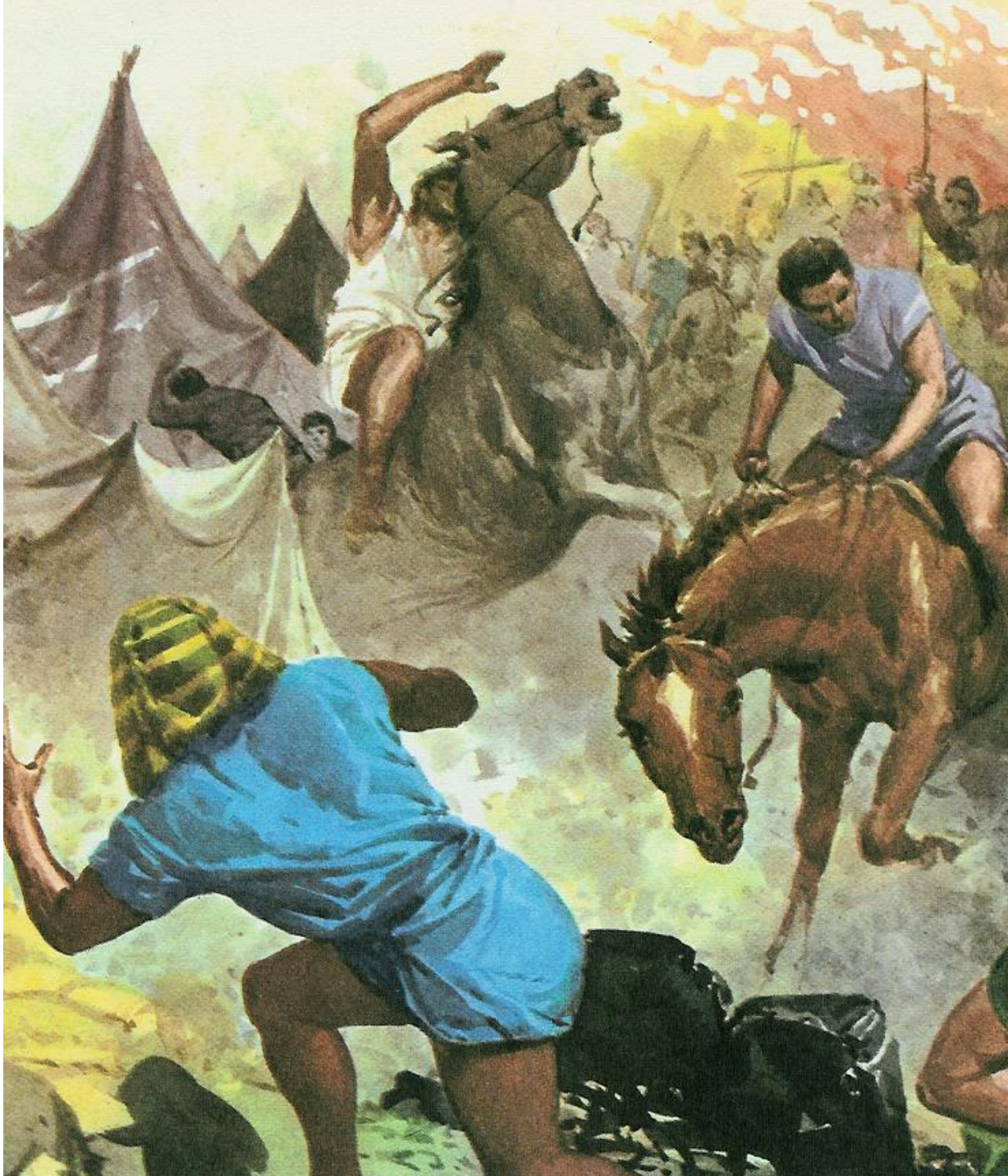
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		"...to obey is better than sacrifice..." 1 Samuel 15:23

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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*1 Samuel 15:1-29*



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# SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

*1 Samuel 15:1-29*



*The Israelites defeat the Amalekites but Saul disobeys God*

# SAUL DISOBEYS GOD

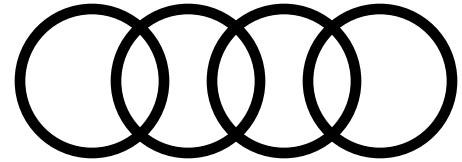
*1 Samuel 15:1-29*

## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: MEMORY VERSE CHAIN

Students will make memory verse chains to help remind them that it is better to obey God than to sacrifice.

### MATERIALS

1. White 67 lb. Cardstock
2. Chain Pattern
3. Scissors
4. Tape or Stapler
5. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils



### DIRECTIONS

1. Copy a chain pattern for each student on 67 lb. cardstock.
2. Allow students to color the rectangles (chain links).
3. Have students cut out the rectangles on the solid black lines.
4. Help students tape or staple the pieces together to form a chain. Make sure the words are “linked” together in the correct order.

### FOR DISCUSSION

As students are coloring their chain links, help them understand that God wants us to obey him. Sacrificing was a practice in the Old Testament used to show God that they were sorry for something that they had done. Through the finished work of Jesus, on the cross, we need not offer sacrifices anymore. Jesus was the spotless lamb that was sacrificed on our behalf. Students should realize that obeying is what God wants, not some act that shows that we are sorry for what we have done.

### TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

### MEMORY VERSE

*“...to obey is better than sacrifice...” 1 Samuel 15:23*

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*1 Samuel 15:1-29*

"	to
obey	
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1 Samuel 15:23	

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*1 Samuel 15:1-29*

King Saul was a good king as long as he listened to God and did what God said. But when Saul decided to stop listening to God, he got into big trouble. Samuel, God's prophet, came to Saul and gave him some good advice. You will get out of the maze only by following good advice. See what happens if you follow bad advice.

➔ MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS

➔ IT IS BETTER TO OBEY GOD

➔ LISTEN TO GOD

➔ THINK YOU KNOW BEST

➔ DO YOUR OWN THING



# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON 1 SAMUEL 15:1-29

## SAUL DISOBEYS GOD



Yesterday, Samuel was seen talking with King Saul. Samuel told Saul to attack the Amalekites. Samuel said to destroy *everything* that belonged to them including men, women, children, and all of their animals.

So Saul got together 210,00 soldiers who attacked the Amalekites. Saul chose not to kill the king, but his soldiers killed all the other people. Saul also chose not to destroy the best animals and other things that he wanted to keep.

Then the Lord spoke to Samuel. "I am sad that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions," said the Lord.

Samuel was troubled by what the Lord said. He cried out to the Lord all night.

The next day, King Saul told Samuel that he had obeyed God and destroyed the Amalekites. But Samuel knew this was not completely true.

"I saved the king and some animals to sacrifice to the Lord," said King Saul.

Samuel told King Saul that it is better to obey God than to sacrifice animals to him. King Saul said he was sorry, but it was too late.

"The Lord has chosen someone else to be king," said Samuel.

For more details, please read 1 Samuel 15:1-29 in the Bible.

## QUESTIONS

1. What did Samuel tell Saul to do?
2. What did Saul choose to do?
3. Why was the Lord upset with King Saul?
4. Why didn't the Lord want Saul to be king anymore?

## MEMORY VERSE

"...to obey is better than sacrifice..."  
1 Samuel 15:23

## UNSCRAMBLE THE MESSAGE

did	King	the	Lord
Saul	obey	not	

King \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.