LESSON 11

SAUL TEARS SAMUEL'S ROBE



Aim: **To show the children how King Saul failed as a leader. He wanted to worship God in his own way, but God wants obedience.**

Scripture Reading: **1 Samuel 15:1-29, 34**

Memory Verse: **Psalm 1:1** (complete v 1)
Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Make up a story or tell one from your own experience about a child who was disobedient. It must involve a parent telling a child to do something in a certain way, which the child ignored. Describe the unpleasant consequences when a child thinks he or she knows better than a wise parent.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. The prophet Samuel had given King Saul a message from God. The king was to lead Israel's army against a neighbouring tribe called the Amalekites. They had to show that they knew they would not triumph in their own strength, but that it was God who would win the battle for them. They had to do that by destroying everything that had belonged to the Amalekites and not take anything for themselves (15:1-3).
2. Saul and his army did defeat the Amalekites but they did not obey God completely. Instead of destroying everything, they saved the king of Amalek and the best of the livestock (15:7-9).
3. God spoke to Samuel about this disobedience and Samuel set off to find Saul, who had gone to build a monument to himself. This was probably a big tower with Saul's name on it and showing all the victories he had won. King Saul had begun to be proud of himself (15:10-13).
4. King Saul thought he had obeyed God. He blamed his men for sparing the best among the Amalekites' cattle and sheep. But should a king let his men lead him? Samuel was very upset with Saul. **You could act the scene between Saul and Samuel, playing both parts yourself.** King Saul protested that he was innocent, but Samuel showed him by a series of questions that he had acted unwisely (15:13-21).
5. Samuel told Saul that God wants complete obedience to his commands; that is true worship. Saul's disobedience was such a serious transgression that his descendents would not inherit his throne (15:22-23).

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6. Saul was very upset, but he continued to make excuses for his disobedience. When Samuel refused to listen anymore and turned to leave Saul caught hold of his clothes so tightly that the material tore. **Show Picture 11.** Samuel told him that, just as Saul had torn his clothes from him, the Lord had torn the kingdom from Saul. That is to say, the Lord had taken it away from him. Samuel and Saul would never meet again (15:24-29, 34).

Our Response to the Story

This story shows that obedience is more important to God than our acts of worship. The Lord will reveal his will clearly to those who really want to obey him. God's Word, the Bible, teaches us what he wants us to do. Samuel obeyed God and served him all his life, even if it meant upsetting the king.

Instil the Memory Verse



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