

Journal Page

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- When might it be wrong to want to be like someone else? When might it be good?
- Why do you think we sometimes disobey those who want what is best for us?
- Why is partial obedience still sin? Who completely obeyed for us?

Israel's First King

1 Samuel 8-15

STORY POINT: GOD'S PEOPLE WANTED A KING LIKE THE NATIONS AROUND THEM.

Samuel was a judge over Israel. The leaders of Israel said, "We want a king like the nations around us!" Samuel prayed to God. God said, "Give them what they want."

God brought to Samuel a man named Saul. Samuel anointed Saul, and the Spirit of God was with Saul. The Israelites thought Saul would be a good king, but Saul did not obey God. One day, Saul took an army to fight the Philistines. But the Philistines had more chariots, horses, and soldiers. Saul wanted to make an offering to God. But only the priests, like Samuel, were allowed to give offerings to God. Saul decided to make an offering to God himself. Then Samuel arrived. "You have disobeyed God," Samuel said. "You will not be king much longer."

Later, the Israelites won a battle against the Amalekites. God wanted Saul to destroy everything, but Saul only destroyed things he didn't want.

God told Samuel, "I regret that I made Saul king because he does not obey Me." Samuel confronted Saul. Saul admitted his sin and asked for forgiveness. Samuel said, "God has taken away your kingship today, and He will make someone else king."



Christ Connection: God intended for a heavenly king to rule over Israel, but the Israelites did not trust God's plan and wanted a king like the nations around them. God gave them a king, but Saul did not obey God. God had a plan to send His Son, Jesus. King Jesus trusted and obeyed God perfectly and died so sinners could be forgiven and accepted.