

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Fall of King Saul

THE BIG YEAR SEASON 2 WEEK 1

1

WHAT YOU NEED

- Dice

LET'S READ THE BIBLE

Take turns reading the following passages:

- 1 Samuel 15:1-3
- 1 Samuel 15:7-11
- 1 Samuel 15:13-21
- 1 Samuel 15:24-26

2

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

The people were very glad that Saul was their king. At first, he was a good king and tried to obey the Lord. He listened to Samuel's good advice.

Saul had a son named Jonathan. Saul and Jonathan fought in battles together against their enemies. The enemies would try to hurt the Israelites and take their land away.

Even though Saul was a good king at first, he later started to turn away from the Lord. Once, he tried to act like a priest and offer a sacrifice to the Lord. When Samuel heard about that he was very sad and angry. He knew Saul was wrong to act like he was a priest. Only Samuel was the priest. Samuel told Saul that God would have to choose a different king. God did not want Saul to be king anymore.

Sometimes the Lord had special instructions for a battle. Once, he told Samuel to tell Saul to fight against the Amalekites. The Amalekites had been very mean to God's people. The Lord wanted Saul to fight the Amalekites and destroy them. Saul and his army were not to take any prisoners and they were not to bring home any animals.

When Saul fought the battle, he did not obey the Lord. His army did not obey the Lord either. They captured the Amalekite king and the best animals. Saul was so proud of himself that he even built a monument to himself.

When Samuel told Saul that he had disobeyed the Lord, Saul started making excuses. First, he said he didn't do it. Then he said the soldiers did it. Then he said the soldiers made him do it.

Finally, Saul said that he knew he had done wrong. But Saul did not want to say he was sorry in front of all the people.

Samuel was very sad. He knew that Saul was not a good king anymore. When Saul did something wrong, he couldn't even admit it. He tried to blame other people and make excuses. The Lord wants all of us to say we are sorry when we do wrong. He wants us to admit that we did wrong and not blame others. Saul stopped asking Samuel for advice. Samuel never went to see Saul again.

3

4

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

- What were the 2 ways that Saul disobeyed God?
- What were some of the ways that Saul tried to cover up or make excuses for his disobedience?
- Why did God take the kingdom away from Saul?
- what does this story teach us about God? (*He takes sin seriously. He loves us too much to let us disobey Him without consequences*).

5

LET'S GO A BIT DEEPER

- Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23. What important things can we learn from these 2 verses?
- Like Saul, we often think that if we are obeying in the "big areas" or in "most areas" of our lives, then we are doing well. Why do we think like this? Why is this wrong?
- The next mistake we make like Saul, is to think we can worship and sacrifice and it will "make up" for our sin or disobedience. How do we know that this is not what God wants?
- Another way that we are like Saul is we say we will obey, but then we don't do it right away. Can you think of some examples of how we delay our obedience? Why is this wrong?
- Obedience is very important to God. How can we make sure as a family, that we are living lives that obey God? How can we obey better?

6

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Pray together:

- Thank god that He cares enough about us to not let us sin and disobey Him without consequences.
- Thank God for His patience with us.
- Pray that God would help you as a family to obey Him fully and immediately every day.

7

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

Say this: "Every day we have a choice. We can choose to obey God or not. When we don't obey God, this has consequences. Obedience is very important to God. But we should also be careful that we don't only obey God because we think that then god will have to reward us. God is not a vending machine - we can't put 'obedience' in and get a 'reward' out. Obedience is a way that we can show God that we love Him and that we take our relationship with Him seriously."

Now, we are going to play a fun game. We are going to take turns to roll a dice. If the dice lands on an odd number, it means you didn't obey. You will then have to do the first/next consequence on the "Disobey list". If the dice lands on an even number, you obeyed. Do the first/next thing on the "Obey list". Cross of items as they are claimed by your family members. Play as long as there are items left to claim on the obey/disobey list.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

Disobey list

1. Your whole family must take turns to give you one compliment.
2. You get to pick what is on the menu for dinner one day this week (within reason).
3. You get breakfast in bed on the day of your choice.
4. You get to pick the next movie you as a family watch together (within reason).
5. You get to pick an activity for you and your family to do together (within reason).
6. Each member in your family must write you a letter of encouragement over the next week (younger kids can draw a picture).

Obey list

1. You must wash the entire family's dishes one night this week.
2. You need to clean the bathroom this week.
3. Mom/dad can pick one chore you have to do this week.
4. You are the drink maker/fetcher this whole week.
5. You must take all of the rubbish bags out this week.
6. You've lost all of your screen time/entertainment for one day this week (excluding work or school work).