

Bible Stories for Adults

God Rejects Saul

1 Samuel 12 - 15

Opening

Gathering: Name some things that people do to impress others while hiding their inner selves.

Today's Focus: God not only calls us into His family, but also wants us to remain and grow in a faithful relationship with Him.

Key Verses: *The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.* 1 Samuel 16:7

Be sure to fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things He has done for you. 1 Samuel 12:24

Opening Prayer

Lesson

The Last Judge (1 Samuel 8)

Who was the last judge of Israel?

1 Samuel 7:13, 15

Why was he the last judge?

1 Samuel 8:1, 3-5

What happened after the king that Samuel gave them won a victory for Israel?

1 Samuel 11:15

The Torch is Passed (1 Samuel 12)

How did Samuel prepare for a peaceful transition in leadership?

1 Samuel 12:1-2, 5 (1-5)

Did Samuel feel by this time that adding a king was a good thing?

1 Samuel 12:12, 17-19 (6-19)

What point was Samuel trying to make?

1 Samuel 12:14-15, 24

Saul's Army (1 Samuel 13:2)

How many men had responded to Saul's early Call to Arms to save Jabesh Gilead?

1 Samuel 11:6-8

How many of these volunteers did Saul keep for his permanent army?

1 Samuel 13:2

Who was Jonathan?

1 Samuel 14:49

How did Saul recruit new soldiers during his reign?

1 Samuel 14:52

How well was the Israelite army outfitted?

1 Samuel 13:19-20, 22 (19-22)

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Stirring the Hornet's Nest (1 Samuel 13:3-7)

Where did Saul's army turn after the success against the Ammonites?

1 Samuel 13:3-4

How did the Philistines respond to this attack?

1 Samuel 13:5

Did this scare the brave Israelites who had God on their side?

1 Samuel 13:6-7

How many were left with Saul?

1 Samuel 13:15

Good Intentions (1 Samuel 13:8-10)

What were the Israelites to do before entering any battle?

1 Samuel 7:5

What had Samuel told Saul to do at Gilgal?

1 Samuel 10:8

What did Saul do when he saw the Philistines and Samuel had not yet come?

1 Samuel 13:8-10

Rationalize This (1 Samuel 13:11-15)

How did Saul explain this to Samuel?

1 Samuel 13:11-12

What was wrong with Saul's good intentions and what was his consequence?

1 Samuel 13:13-14

Which is more important, what you believe or how strongly you believe it?

Romans 10:1-4

Lopsided Across the Pass (1 Samuel 13:16-14:3)

Where did Saul take his army after calling on God at Gilgal?

1 Samuel 13:16

Did the Philistines attack the Israelite army when they arrived?

1 Samuel 13:17-18

Who was with Saul at Gibeah?

1 Samuel 14:2-3

Where had Jonathan gone?

1 Samuel 13:23-14:1

By Many or By Few (1 Samuel 14:4-14)

Was Jonathan trying to become a hero?

1 Samuel 14:6-7

He had not inquired of the Lord. How would he know if God was with him?

1 Samuel 14:8-10

What did the Philistines think when they saw Jonathan and his armor bearer?

1 Samuel 14:11-12

Was Jonathan correct in trusting God for success?

1 Samuel 14:13-14

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A Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On (1 Samuel 14:15-23)

- How did God use Jonathan's success to save Israel from this massive army?
1 Samuel 14:15-16
- How did Saul again show his weak faith?
1 Samuel 14:17-19
- Did God withdraw the support He began with Jonathan?
1 Samuel 14:20-23

What a Sweet Son (1 Samuel 14:24-30)

- What rash vow had Saul made during the heat of the battle at Gilgal?
1 Samuel 14:24
- How did this vow make things difficult on the men?
1 Samuel 14:25-26
- Did anyone disobey Saul and eat any of the honey?
1 Samuel 14:27-28
- How did Jonathan respond when he learned what he had done?
1 Samuel 14:29-30

Blood Hungry (1 Samuel 14:31-34)

- How was the situation worsened when evening fell and the men were able to eat?
1 Samuel 14:31-33a
- Why was eating meat with blood in it a problem?
Leviticus 17:10-11 (10-14)
- How did Saul solve the problem?
1 Samuel 14:33b-34

Jonathan or God? (1 Samuel 14:35-45)

- Did Saul recognize God's hand in the victory and continued pursuit?
1 Samuel 14:35-37
- How did Saul use bad judgment in handling God's lack of response?
1 Samuel 14:38-40
- How did they find who was responsible?
1 Samuel 14:41-42
- Did Saul regret and try to take back his word to protect his son?
1 Samuel 14:43-44
- How long did Saul wait before he killed Jonathan as he had promised?
1 Samuel 14:45
- Why was it wrong for Saul not to kill his son?
Judges 11:30-31, 35

Saul's Enemies (1 Samuel 14:46-52)

- How much longer did Saul fight the Philistines?
1 Samuel 14:46, 52
- Did Saul contend with any other enemies?
1 Samuel 14:47-48

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Yet Another Strike (*1 Samuel 15:1-11*)

What was Saul's next command from God?

1 Samuel 15:1-3

Why did God want the Amalekites wiped out?

Exodus 17:8, 11-14 (Deut. 25:17-19)

Did Saul follow God's instructions?

1 Samuel 15:7-9

How did God and Samuel feel about Saul's disobedience?

1 Samuel 15:10-11

Good Intentions - Part 2 (*1 Samuel 15:12-23*)

How did Saul explain his actions to Samuel?

1 Samuel 15:13-15

Had Saul really won this battle for the glory of God?

1 Samuel 15:12

How did Samuel remind Saul that he had become great from nothing?

1 Samuel 15:17-19 (16-19)

Did Saul then confess his mistake or try to pass the blame?

1 Samuel 15:20-21

What was wrong with the good intentions Saul said he had?

1 Samuel 15:22-23 (Matthew 23:23-24; Amos 4:4-5; Isaiah 1)

Reject God and Be Rejected (*1 Samuel 15:24-35*)

Did Saul then come clean and confess his guilt?

1 Samuel 15:24-25

What was Saul's consequence for rejecting God's instructions?

1 Samuel 15:26-28 (26-19)

Was Saul concerned with getting right with God?

1 Samuel 15:30-31

What important job did Samuel personally make sure was completed?

1 Samuel 15:32-33

Why did Samuel never meet with Saul again?

1 Samuel 15:34-35

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. After I'm gone, will others say I lived an honest and faithful life?
(*1 Samuel 12:1-5; 2 Kings 12:15; Job 1:8; Proverbs 21:29; Matthew 25:21; Acts 20:24*)
2. What sins have I excused because I did them with what I thought were good intentions?
(*1 Samuel 13:5-14; Psalm 119:29-30; Proverbs 14:12; Acts 26:9-18; Hebrews 4:12*)
3. When have I seen God use few to accomplish what should take many?
(*1 Samuel 14:6-14; Judges 7, 2 Kings 6:15-17; Matthew 14:15-21; Romans 8:31*)
4. When have I said or done something that caused someone else to sin?
(*1 Samuel 14:24-30; 2 Kings 21:22, 25; Matthew 5:29-30; 23:13-14; Luke 17:1-2*)
5. When have I gone through the motions rather than truly worshiping God?
(*1 Samuel 15:22; Psalm 51:16-17; Proverbs 21:3; Amos 4:4-5; Isaiah 1; Matthew 23*)