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)
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
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
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 15:15; 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?
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)