

Saul

1 Samuel 8 - 15



The Story

God was ruling Israel through the prophet Samuel and his sons. Since Samuel's sons did not fear God and the Children of Israel wanted to be like other nations, the elders asked for a king. Samuel was not pleased about this, but he asked God what to do.

God told Samuel, "It is not you they have rejected as their king, but me. Give them a king, but tell them all that a king will make them do."

Samuel told the people what God said. He warned them that the king will take their children and servants to serve him and the king will take much of their money and property for himself. The people still wanted a king.

Saul was chosen by God to be king. He was from the family of Benjamin. He was taller and handsomer than anyone else. Samuel wrote down some rules, but Saul was the ruler now. At first Saul was a faithful king and obeyed God's Word, but later he trusted himself and did not love God.

There were a lot of wars between God's people and the enemies when Saul was ruler. If the people trusted and obeyed God, the wars would be won by God's people. If they did not follow God the enemies would win. Then Samuel would pray for the people.

One time Saul was waiting for Samuel to come and offer a sacrifice.

When Samuel didn't come Saul offered the sacrifice. This was against God's commands. Saul disobeyed and because of that the kingdom would not stay with Saul's family.

Saul had a son, Jonathan, who was a good warrior.

Once Saul made a bad rule for the soldiers not to eat food all day. The men became very weak and could not fight very well.

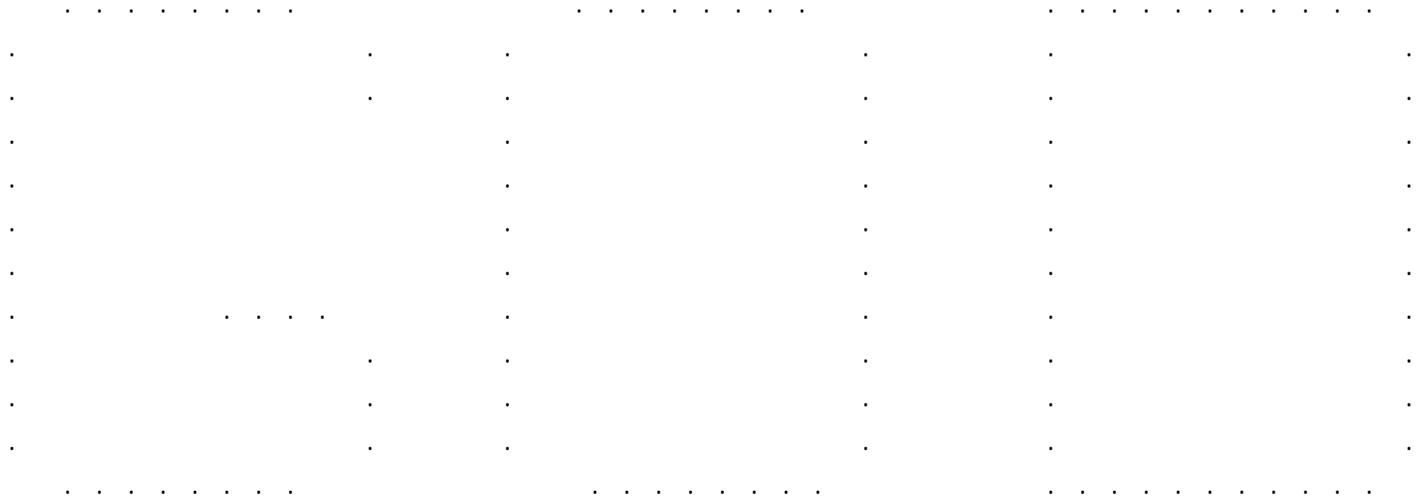
Once God helped Saul and his army win a battle with the Amelekites. God told the people to destroy all the enemies and their animals. Saul and his men disobeyed God and kept alive some of the best animals and the enemy king. Samuel told Saul that he had sinned against God. Saul said, I kept the animals to sacrifice to God.

Samuel said, "It is better to obey than sacrifice. God has rejected you as king."

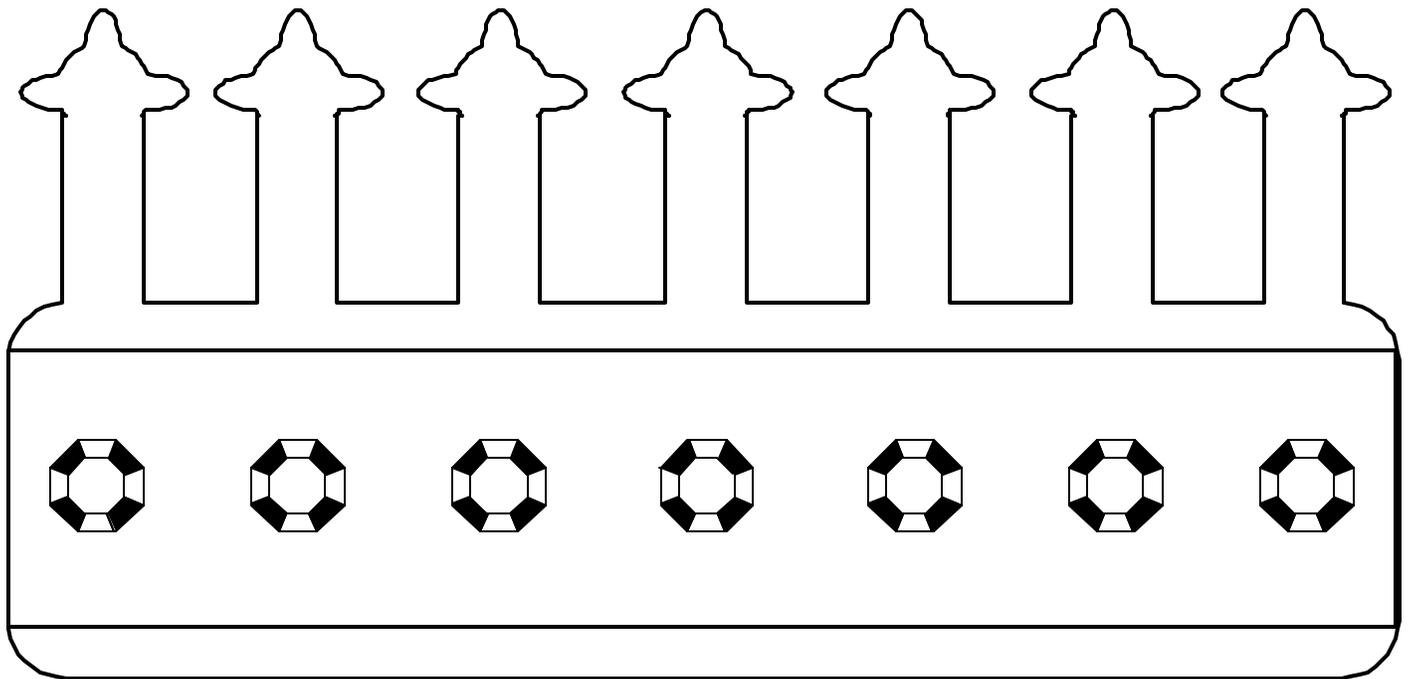
Samuel then left Saul and never went to see him again. God was sad that He had made Saul king over Israel.

God gave His people a king when they asked, but Saul did not stay a faithful king.

Activity One - Trace the dots to see who was the first ruler of Israel.



Activity Two - Decorate the crown that Saul could have worn.



God wants us to remain faithful to Him and His Word.

Activity Three - Circle Yes or No.

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| 1. | Did Saul always obey God? | Yes | No |
| 2. | Do we always obey God? | Yes | No |
| 3. | When we disobey should we say we are sorry? | Yes | No |

Passages

1 John 5:3 - For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding.

Hymn - TLH #295 v. 5, 6

The Law is good; but since the Fall,
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no power to justify.

To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith
alone. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,
Thank You for sending Jesus. We sin every day and would go to hell if Jesus had not come and kept Your laws perfectly. Help us to be sorry for our sins and to trust in the forgiveness which Jesus has earned for us. We ask this in Jesus' saving name. Amen.