

## Questions / Answers

1. Who was the last judge?  
*Samuel.*
2. The judges were leaders but who was their King?  
*God was their King.*
3. Why did the Israelites want a king?  
*They wanted a man they could see to lead them to battle.*
4. Who did God choose to be the first king?  
*Saul*
5. What was Saul like?  
*Tall and handsome, a good soldier and brave in battle.*
6. Was Saul a good king? Did he help the people to love God?  
*No. He was proud and disobedient. He led the people away from God*
7. How did Saul disobey God when the Philistines were fighting them?  
*He offered sacrifices to God instead of waiting for Samuel.*
8. How did Saul disobey God when he fought against the Amalekites?  
*He saved Agag the king and the best sheep and oxen.*
9. What was Saul's excuse?  
*He had saved the animals to sacrifice to God.*
10. What was Saul's punishment?  
*God rejected him from being king.*

## Memory verses

1 Samuel 15:22—23    Proverbs 28:13

## Discussion

Saul obeyed part of God's commands, so why was he punished? Is it alright to do most of what God commands? Is it alright to do something else if it is more convenient? What commands of God should we obey? Is it alright if we do something else instead?

## Writing

Write about one way that Saul disobeyed God. What was his punishment?

# CBM Senior Lessons



## Lesson 19 Saul—the first king

**READING** 1 Samuel 8:19—22; 10:1 & 24; 13:5—14; 15:1—3 & 10—23

### LESSON

When the Israelites went into the promised land, two of God's promises to Abraham were fulfilled. Abraham's descendants, the Israelites, were now a **nation** living in the **land** that God had promised them.

1. ***God promised Abraham that his descendants would become a great nation.***
2. ***God promised Abraham that He would give the land of Canaan to Abraham's descendants for ever.***

When Joshua was their leader the Israelites had promised to love and obey God. When they turned away from God and worshipped idols, God punished them. There was famine and their enemies attacked them. When the Israelites turned back to God He sent judges to help them and teach them His ways. The judges were leaders who helped the Israelites, but God was their King.

The judges were leaders of the Israelites for about four hundred years. The last judge was called Samuel. Samuel worked very hard to teach the Israelites about God.

When Samuel was old the Israelites told him that they wanted a man to be their king. They did not want God to be their king any more. They did not want any more judges. Their enemies, the Philistines, kept attacking them. They wanted to be like other nations. They wanted a man that they could see to be their king. They wanted a man to rule over them and lead their army to battle against their enemies.

Samuel was sad that the people wanted a king. He prayed to God. God told Samuel that the people had not rejected him - they had rejected God. God said that the people could have a king. Samuel warned the people that a king would take their sons to be soldiers and their daughters to be servants. But the people still wanted a king. So God let them have a king.

God let the Israelites have a man as their king. God was still their real King, but God gave them a man to be king - the king ruled for God. God chose a king that the people would like. He chose a man called Saul. He was a tall, handsome man. He was a good soldier who fought bravely in battles. Samuel anointed Saul to be king over Israel. Then Samuel gathered all the people together to show them their new king. The people liked Saul because he was tall and strong and handsome. They shouted, "God save the king." The people were pleased that Saul was their king who would lead them out to battle against their enemies.

Saul was not a good king. God had not made Saul king because he was a man who loved and obeyed God, but because he was the sort of king the people wanted. He was tall and handsome and strong to lead the people in battle. When Saul was king he became proud and disobeyed God. He influenced the people to disobey God. God gave Saul great power when he became king. But he also had a great responsibility to teach God's people to love and obey Him. Saul did not help the people to love God.

The Philistines were enemies of the Israelites. The Philistines came to fight against Israel. Saul gathered the army of Israel to fight the Philistines. The Philistines were very strong and the Israelites were afraid of them. Saul was waiting for Samuel to come and offer sacrifices to God and to ask God to help them in the battle. Samuel was late. Saul got very impatient.

The Philistines were gathered to fight against the Israelites. They had 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen and an army so big it could not be counted. The Israelites were trembling with fright. Saul was afraid that his army would start to run away. Saul knew that only the priests were allowed to offer sacrifices to God. But Saul got so worried and impatient that he offered the sacrifices himself.



Then Samuel arrived. Samuel told Saul that he had disobeyed God's commands by offering sacrifices himself. Saul should have had faith and trusted that God would help him. God said that because Saul had disobeyed Him Saul's sons would not be the next kings. It is always very important to obey God **exactly**.

Later God told Saul to kill all the Amalekites. God told Saul to kill every person and all the animals. The Amalekites were cruel enemies of Israel. God said they must all be destroyed. Saul gathered the army of Israel. They went to destroy the Amalekites.

God helped the Israelites to destroy the Amalekites. But Saul kept Agag, the King of the Amalekites, alive. He wanted to show his power over this king. Saul also kept the best of the sheep and oxen.

When Saul returned from the battle, he told Samuel that he had obeyed God. Samuel asked him why he could hear sheep bleating and oxen lowing. Saul said that he had kept some sheep and oxen to sacrifice to God.

Saul had disobeyed God again. Saul had become proud. He thought he could serve God how he wanted. It is very important to do **exactly** what God asks. God will not be pleased if we do something else instead. God had told Saul to destroy all the Amalekites and all their animals. But Saul and the people had kept the king and the best of the animals alive. Saul made an excuse. He said that the people had kept the animals to sacrifice to God. Samuel told Saul that it is more important to obey God than to offer sacrifices.

Samuel ordered Agag the king of the Amalekites to be brought to him. Samuel killed Agag as God had commanded.

Saul had become proud and rebelled against God. He had disobeyed God again. Samuel told Saul, "God has rejected you as king because you have disobeyed Him."

God chose another man to be the next King of Israel.

