



# ISRAEL'S FIRST KING

1 SAMUEL 8:6-7, 10:20-24, 13:5-12, 15:7-9, 15:22

## LEARN THE WORD

### Psalm 34:17-18

*When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.*

- The Israelites insisted on having a king even after Samuel warned them that their kings would make them servants and take their best crops and animals. Samuel appointed Saul to be Israel's first king.
- Saul disobeyed God when he offered a sacrifice and when he spared the king and the animals of the Amalekites. For his disobedience, God rejected him as king and sent a harmful spirit to trouble him.

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

## OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose you are talking to your friends, and they say they don't understand why God is so strict. What happened to God's love? After all, don't we obey Him most of the time? Don't we do most of what He asks us? We really aren't that bad!

### What could you say?

*I guess we don't look that bad compared to some people, but we can't compare ourselves with other people. We are ALL sinners. The Bible makes that clear. And God hates ALL sin. God is perfect, holy, just, and good. He wants us to obey His commands. In fact, the Bible says if we love Him, we will obey His commands. But we can't keep all His commands perfectly. That's why He sent His Son. Jesus lived a perfect life, without any sin, and took the punishment of sinners on Himself so that whoever believes in Him would have eternal life. God has shown His mercy and love toward us through Jesus.*

**Activity:** Saul learned the hard way what God wants each of us to do. Cross out all the Zs then write the rest of the letters in the blanks (in order) to find out the message from God's Word.

**ZJZZOZH NZ 14:15 "IF YOU ZLOZVZEZ ME,  
ZYZOZUZ WILL ZKZEZEZP MY  
CZOZM ZM ZAZN ZDZMEZNZT ZS."**

\_\_\_\_\_ 14:15 "If you \_\_\_\_\_  
me, \_\_\_\_\_ will \_\_\_\_\_ my  
\_\_\_\_\_."

## **HOMESWORD** FOR PARENTS

Samuel was the last judge and a prophet of God. His allegiance to God established a time of peace. At the end of his life, the people asked for a king to rule over them like all the other nations. The Israelites' demand for a king revealed their change of heart and loyalty. They were rejecting God for a man. Samuel warned the people that the king would burden them. Despite Samuel's warnings, the people insisted on wanting an earthly king. God granted their desire, and Samuel appointed Saul to become the first king of Israel.

The Spirit of God had come upon Saul after his anointing and prepared him to become king. But Saul would fail two tests of his obedience to God. Two years after becoming king, Saul faced an imposing army of Philistines. The Israelites were scattering from him, so Saul wanted to ask a blessing from God through a burnt offering. When Samuel failed to arrive after seven days, Saul impatiently made the sacrifice himself despite God's commands and Samuel's instructions. Saul disobeyed and failed to trust God. Saul's second test came when God commanded him to attack the Amalekites and completely destroy everyone and everything (1 Samuel 15:3). But Saul disobeyed and kept the king and the best animals alive, presumably for the purpose of making sacrifices to God (1 Samuel 15:15). When Samuel arrived, he told Saul that obedience was better than sacrifices (1 Samuel 15:22).

The consequences of Saul's disobedience were devastating. He would lose the kingdom, the advice and friendship of Samuel, and the Spirit of God. We know that God still demands obedience from His people. Jesus made this clear in John 14:15: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Like Saul, we are called to obedience to God.