

ISRAEL'S FIRST KING (KING SAUL)



**1 Samuel 13:5–14;
15:10–11, 26**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

1 Samuel 13:14

MEMORY VERSE

“But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command.” **1 Samuel 13:14**

“Dad,” she said, “Is obeying God anything like obeying your parents?” “Well, yes,” her dad responded. “He’s the one who set up this thing we call obedience. When we do what God tells us to do, it pleases God. It’s sort of like when we buy a new car. If we want to get the best performance out of the car, we read the owner’s manual. We discover what the manufacturer says about it, and then do what it says. Since God created us and knows what’s best for us, why wouldn’t we want to do what He says? Just remember, sweetheart, I am called on to be obedient to God, just as you are called on to be obedient to me.”

Read 1 Samuel 13:5–14; 15:10–11, 26. Saul seemed to make one blunder after another. His focus was more on himself and what he felt was best, than God’s ultimate best for him and his people.

Teenagers desperately need to know that obedience is in their best interest. They need to know that God isn’t trying to steal their fun or happiness, but, in fact, increase their joy. The only way that’s going to happen is if they choose to do things His way. When we obey, we quickly discover how much we can trust God and how faithful He is, realizing just how much He loves us. It works.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, the family plays a good ‘ole fashioned game of “Mother May I?” Put mom front and center. Everyone else stands behind a line you create. Mom looks at dad and says, “Take five giant steps” (baby steps, regular steps). If dad fails to say, “Mother, may I?” he must go back behind the line. Mom does this with each family member. The first to reach mom and touch her, wins.

After you’ve played, a family member asks: **So why is obeying mom so important?**

Explore . . .

First, family members read 1 Samuel 13:5–14; 15:10–11, 26. The family discusses: **When Saul disobeyed God, who was his focus on? Why do you think God wanted Saul to do things a certain way? Why is obedience so important? What are the consequences of not obeying God?**

Transform . . .

A family member explains: **God has set up obedience to safeguard us against ultimate harm, to know His best for us, and to glorify Himself. When we obey, we learn to trust God and follow Him, growing closer to Him.** Family members think of ways they will begin practicing obedience. The family uses a piece of paper and creates a master list.

Pray together that your family members will learn to respond in obedience to God, understanding that this is a way in which He shares His love and grace with us.