



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 74 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we were introduced to Samuel, who went to live at the tabernacle when he was a young boy.

- ? What was the name of the priest Samuel helped at the tabernacle? *Eli.*

Yes, it was Eli's job to lead the Israelites in worshipping the Lord. But Eli's two sons did wicked things.

- ? What was Samuel doing when God first spoke to him? *Sleeping.*
- ? What did Samuel do three times when he heard God call his name? *Ran to Eli's room, thinking it was Eli calling him.*

After the third time, Eli figured out it was God calling Samuel, and he told Samuel what to say if he heard his name again. God gave Samuel a serious message to tell Eli. He said Israel and Eli's family would be judged for their sin. Everything happened just as God said.

Samuel continued to listen to God as he grew up. He became a prophet, a priest, and a judge, and God helped him in all he did.

In today's lesson, we'll be talking about making good choices and bad choices. But first, we're going to practice making choices. I'm going to show you some pictures, and you have to tell me which choice you would make and why you'd choose it. *Show each Choice Picture one at a time and read it aloud. Call on students to decide which choice they would make and discuss why it would be a good choice or not.*

We may make a lot of good choices, but one or two bad ones can ruin everything. Bad

choices come with consequences. That's when something bad happens because of a poor choice we made. Today, we're going to look at how an important person made some choices that had terrible consequences.

Israel Chooses a King

Samuel was leading Israel as a judge. But when he got older, the Israelites decided they didn't want any more judges to lead them after Samuel. They came to him and said, "We want a king so we can be like all the other nations!"

They didn't want God to be king over them anymore. They wanted a man to be their king instead of God. This idea displeased Samuel, so he prayed, and God told him to do what the people wanted.

- ? Were the Israelites making a good choice when they asked for a king instead of God? *Allow discussion.*

The Israelites' choice was not good. They were being impatient and unwise, wanting to do things their own way instead of trusting God. And their choice would have consequences.

Samuel warned the people that their kings would make them pay taxes and take the best land, animals, and servants for themselves. But the Israelites wouldn't listen to Samuel's warning; they still wanted a human king to rule them and lead them into battle. They thought since everyone else in the countries around them had kings, why shouldn't they have a king, too?

But God was still in control, and he chose a tall man named Saul from the tribe of Benjamin to be Israel's first king.

Saul Offers a Sacrifice

Saul was given a big responsibility when he was made king. Things started out pretty well. Samuel helped Saul and prayed for him to follow God and make good choices. God sent his Spirit to help Saul and gave him victory over his enemies. But Saul soon began to make unwise choices that were not pleasing to God.

Remember the Philistines? They hated the Israelites and had fought against them for years. This time they gathered against Saul

and the Israelites with a huge army of 30,000 chariots and 6,000 men on horses and so many soldiers—it was like trying to count sand on the seashore! Have you ever been to a sandy beach? There's A LOT of sand there.

The Israelites were terrified of the Philistine army! They were hiding wherever they could—in caves, in holes, behind rocks! The men who stayed with Saul were so scared, they were shaking and trembling.

What would Saul do? He was the king, the commander of his army. How could he fight the enemy when his men were running away to hide?

1 Samuel 13:8–10

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll look in 1 Samuel chapter 13 to see what Saul did. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

- ? King Saul knew they were in trouble. But he was waiting for someone to come meet him. Who was it? *Samuel.*
- ? How long did Saul wait? *Seven days.*
- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did King Saul do when he saw that his men were scattering from him? *He offered the burnt offering.*
- ? Who came right after Saul made the offering? *Samuel.*

Saul wanted to offer a sacrifice to God so he would bless and protect him and the men going to battle. But only a priest like Samuel was supposed to offer sacrifices. Saul should have waited for Samuel to do it. Instead, he got impatient and did it himself and disobeyed God's commands.

- ? Did Saul make a good choice or a bad choice? *A bad choice.*

Saul Disobeys God's Command

Let's look at another choice Saul made. We'll read from 1 Samuel 15 when Saul was headed for another battle. This time, the Israelites were attacking the Amalekites. Samuel told Saul that God wanted them to completely destroy the Amalekites. He wanted everyone and everything gone! So, Saul gathered the Israelites and led the attack.

1 Samuel 15:7–9

Listen carefully so you can tell me what Saul did. *Read the verses.*

Saul attacked the Amalekites as God told him to. That was a good choice.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. But did Saul obey completely? Who did Saul keep alive? *Agag, the king of the enemy Amalekites.*
- ? Did Saul obey God's command to destroy everyone? *No.*
- ? What else did the people keep alive? *The best of the animals (sheep, oxen, calves, lambs, and all that was good).*

Saul and the Israelites destroyed everything THEY thought was worthless, but they kept everything THEY thought was good.

Uh oh! Saul made another bad choice, didn't he? He disobeyed God's command to completely destroy the Amalekites and everything they owned. Instead of trusting and obeying the Lord, Saul trusted himself and what he thought was right.

When Samuel asked Saul why he disobeyed, Saul tried to make his bad choice sound better by saying that he planned to use the animals as offerings to God. But that wasn't what God had said to do. Samuel told Saul that it's better to obey completely than to do things your own way—even when we think our way is a really great idea.

Saul's bad choices had consequences. Now God would take the kingdom away from Saul and choose someone else to be king. Not only that, but Saul would never see Samuel again, so he'd be losing a great friend. But even worse—Saul lost the Spirit of the Lord, which had been working in his life helping him do great things! All these gifts were taken from Saul, and he was left with a harmful spirit that troubled him.

Wow! Did you know how important obedience is to God? God would rather we obey him than try to please him our own way. God wanted Saul to obey completely, and he expects the same from us.

Saul did **NOT**
wait for Samuel.



*Saul kept the king and
the animals alive.*

