



## Lesson Plan 9

# A King Goes His Own Way

### I Samuel 15

#### Memory Verse

“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them”  
(John 13:17)

#### Teacher’s Objective

At the end of the session, the students should be able to:

**Define** who the Amalekites were

**Locate** on a map Egypt, Carmel, and the Sinai desert

**Describe** Saul’s disobedience and how God felt about it

**Express** in their own words how obeying God’s commands makes them happy

#### Materials Needed

See “Teaching Activities” for specific activities

## Teacher’s Bible Study

Some may find this story of bloodshed with Samuel’s decree of destruction against the Amalekites disturbing to read. The story of Saul, however, is not designed to frighten us. We are to read these scriptures and be encouraged. It is in these scriptures that we have the opportunity to learn from Saul’s example. Unlike Saul, we will trust in God and we will triumph.

To begin, the Amalekites must be seen for what they were. They were a fierce, warlike tribe of nomads who descended from one of the sons of Esau. They wandered from the Sinai desert to Israel. From the time the Israelites came out of Egypt (about 1450 B.C.) to the time of King Hezekiah (about 700 B.C.), the Amalekites always seemed to be Israel’s enemy.

The Israelites were first attacked by the Amalekites when they were coming out of Egypt (Exodus 17:8–16). It was the famous battle that the Israelites kept winning as long as Aaron and Hur held up the arms of Moses. God told Moses at that time, “I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.”

When the Israelites settled in the land of Canaan, they did not have a king. They were ruled by judges, who made necessary decisions. The countries and cities that surrounded them did have kings. The Israelites complained that they too wanted a king (I Samuel 8:4–22).

The prophet Samuel warned the Israelites that God did not want them to rely on a king. God wanted to be their only ruler. Samuel warned them about what a king would do to them (I Samuel 8:11–18). Despite the warnings, they still wanted a king. God told Samuel to appoint Saul as king. The Hebrew word for *king* is *melek* which is translated “governor,” or “chief,” or “prince,” as well as king.

The Israelites were fools when they demanded a king. Not foolish in lacking intelligence, but foolish in lacking moral and spiritual insight. A fool tends to rebel and demand to get their own way. In Proverbs 22:15 it says “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.” This is true of adults as well. It is no wonder that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Proverbs 1:7).

To prepare fully for this week’s lessons, read I Samuel.10–16.

## Presenting the Bible Story

### I Samuel 15:1–3

*The Amalekites were sinful  
people, God punishes sin  
(Romans 6:23)*

Samuel grew up to be a great judge in Israel and one of the first prophets. His parents were Elkanah and Hannah. Samuel ruled Israel all his life, and under his leadership there was peace. Our story begins with Samuel going to King Saul telling him of God's command to destroy the Amalekites. God had given this order long before Saul was born. Since Israel had left Egypt, the Amalekites were enemies of Israel. God said that one day He would completely destroy them (Exodus 17:8–16; Deuteronomy 25:17–19). That day had arrived.

### I Samuel 15:4–7

Saul was told to totally destroy the Amalekites. King Saul obediently gathered a great army and set out to destroy the Amalekites. The Kenites were to be spared by King Saul and his army. They were spared because of the kindness they had shown to Israel while they wandered in the wilderness.

### I Samuel 15:8–9

After the battle was fought, Saul and his army destroyed the people and all the goods they considered worthless; but they kept King Agag and the best of the animals. Wasn't Saul told by God to destroy everything? It seems that King Saul made the decision to carry out only a part of what God had commanded. His pride got in the way. He could not resist returning to the Israelites exhibiting his greatness. He deliberately disobeyed God. We please God when we obey Him completely and show a total commitment to His way. Was King Saul pleasing God with these actions?

### I Samuel 15:10–21

Samuel loved Saul. He cried all night when he found out how Saul had only partially obeyed God. Saul's great pride drove him to build a monument in honor of his victory. Carmel is 25 miles south of Jerusalem. It is not to be confused with Mt. Carmel in the northwest portion of the country. Saul proudly told Samuel about how he had carried out God's command. When Samuel challenged Saul about what he had done, Saul pointed the finger. He blamed his soldiers for bringing back the animals and King Agag. He claimed they were brought back to make a sacrifice to God. Now the sin of disobedience is made larger with an outright lie. Samuel responds to Saul with a timeless statement of principle:

### I Samuel 15:22–23

*No matter how grievous,  
Samuel had to point out to  
Saul he had disobeyed God;  
partial obedience  
is disobedience*

“Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,  
As in obeying the voice of the Lord?  
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.  
And to heed than the fat of rams.  
For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,  
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.  
Because you have rejected the word of the Lord,  
He also has rejected you from being king.”

### I Samuel 15:24–31

Saul did give a half-hearted confession of his sin. However, there were consequences to be paid for disobedience. The result of Saul's disobedience was God rejecting him as king. This rejection was symbolized by Saul's tearing of Samuel's robe. Saul was recognized by the people as king for 15 more years.

Samuel then finished the command of God by killing Agag. It was with great sorrow that Samuel left Saul, never to see him again. God allowed Saul to reign, but it did grieve Him.

## Art and Activities

Explore with your students  
the following questions :

Always close your  
class with prayer

## Teaching Activities

### Young Children

Provide copies of Activity Page for your students.

### Older Children

Provide copies of Activity Page for your students.

## Explore the Subject

1. When you are told to do something, how much of it should you do before you can say you have completed the task?
2. How much of the command did Saul do?
3. Are you ever tempted to speak only a part of the truth? Read Ephesians 4:25 and discuss.
4. When your parents tell you to do something, do you do it all? Read Colossians 3:20 and discuss.
5. Do you show love and concern for only those who are nice to you? Read Matthew 5:44 and discuss.

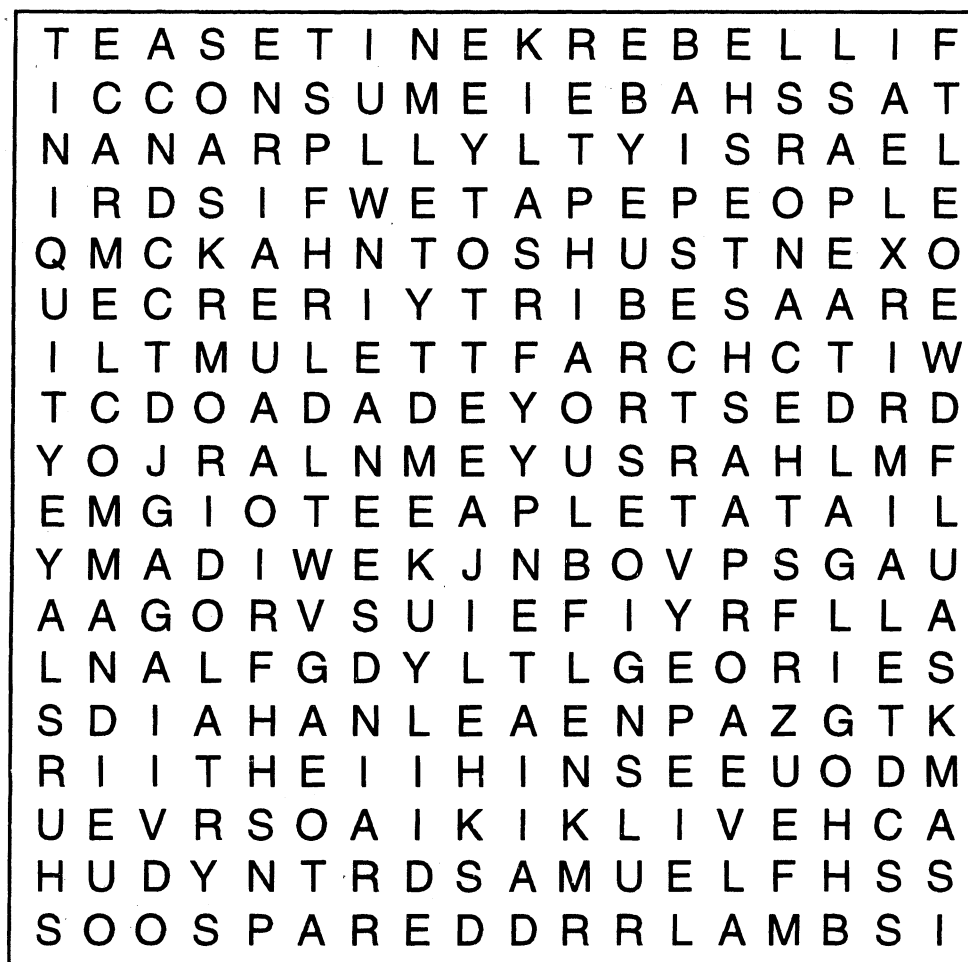
## Respond and Reinforce

1. After today's story, share with us either verbally or write a short paragraph about what you have learned about obedience.  
*Does obedience please God?*
2. Discuss memory verse.

# Activity Page

## A King Goes His Own Way I Samuel 15

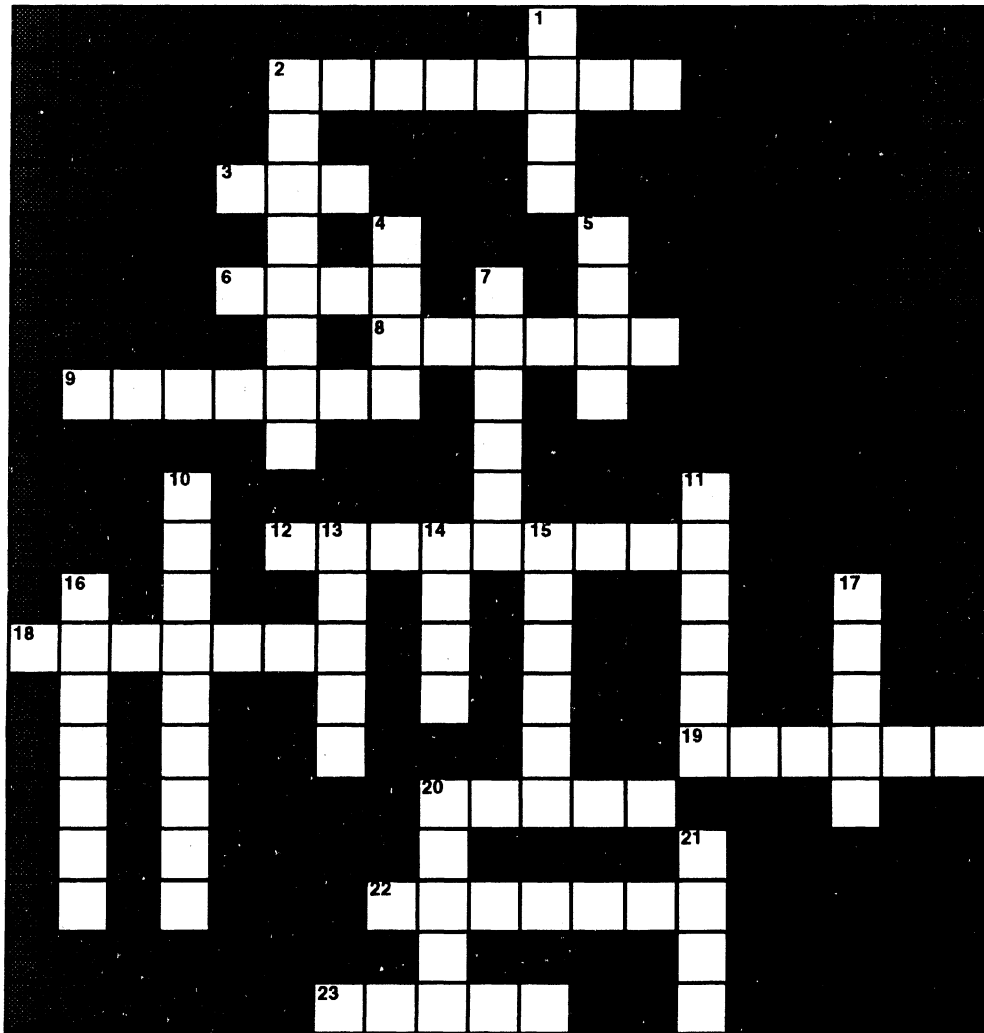
Find the words hidden in the puzzle below.



- |        |           |           |         |            |
|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| SAMUEL | SLAY      | AGAG      | CARMEL  | SINNERS    |
| SAUL   | TELAIM    | DESTROYED | GILGAL  | CONSUME    |
| KING   | JUDAH     | SWORD     | COMMAND | EVIL       |
| PEOPLE | KENITES   | SPARED    | LITTLE  | REBELLION  |
| ISRAEL | MALEKITES | SHEEP     | HEAD    | WITCHCRAFT |
| AMALEK | HAVILAH   | OXEN      | TRIBES  | INIQUITY   |
| EGYPT  | SHUR      | LAMBS     | JOURNEY | IDOLATRY   |

# Activity Page

## A King Goes His Own Way I Samuel 15



**Across**

2. Gross injustice; wicked act.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.
6. First king of Israel.
8. Saul was instructed to go and destroy \_\_\_\_\_ (I Samuel 15:3).
9. Wipe out.
12. Resistance and defiance to authority.
18. A distance traveled.
19. Combine people united by ties of descent from a common ancestry, customs, and traditions.
20. Woolly mammal related to the goat.
22. An authoritative instruction to do something.
23. House of Israel, and the House of \_\_\_\_\_.

**Down**

1. A male sovereign over a country and people.
2. The worship of idols.
4. To murder.
5. Plural of ox.
7. A judge and priest of Israel; anointed Saul to be king.
10. An offering of life (plant, or animal) to a deity.
11. To consecrate or make sacred by a ceremony of applying oil.
13. The land of bondage for the children of Israel.
14. Morally wrong or bad; wicked.
15. Small.
16. Devour; to destroy by burning.
17. Offspring of sheep.
20. A weapon with a long fixed-blade, attached to a handle or hilt.
21. An image or object representing a deity and worshiped.

Across: 2. Inquiry; 3. God; 6. Saul; 8. Amalek; 9. Destroy; 12. Rebellion; 18. Journey; 19. Tribes; 20. Sheep; 22. Command; 23. Judah. Down: 1. King; 2. Idolatry; 4. Slay; 5. Oxen; 7. Samuel; 10. Sacrifice; 11. Anoint; 13. Egypt; 14. Evil; 15. Little; 16. Consume; 17. Lambs; 20. Sword; 21. Idol.

Activity Page

To Be a Child of God



## Activity Page

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#### I Samuel 15

Partial obedience is the same as disobedience. Samuel loved Saul.  
He was grieved by Saul's continued pride and arrogance.

