

Lesson #86: Saul Makes a Big Mistake

[1 Samuel 13:1-14](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/c9Nqs4i1hGU>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/AQAGIPJh4Vk>

Worship Theme: God's ways are important.

Memory Verse: "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12)

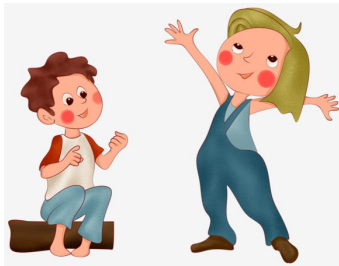
Songs (Youtube links):

1. O Be Careful Little Eyes <https://youtu.be/leoAGL9usF0>
2. Lord I Confess to You <https://youtu.be/cNotlSrjHl0>
3. Lord I Lift Your Name on High <https://youtu.be/rPE5QOHbo70>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: "Bamboo and Bamboo Shoot"



1. Have the children stand in lines.
2. When the teacher shouts "Bamboo," the children need to remain standing. When the teacher shouts "Bamboo Shoot," the children need to sit down. Play the game.
3. To confuse the children, the teacher should do the opposite action. For example, teacher should say "Bamboo" and sit down. If the children follow the teacher and sit down, they lose the game.
4. After the game, explain to the children that those who lost the game did not pay attention to what the teacher said. Listening to God is very important.

Introduction:

When you have problems, do you want to take care of the problem by following your way or by following God's way? Of course we want to follow God's way because God loves us and knows what's best for us. But what if God takes too long to help us? Should we forget about God and take care of the problems by ourselves? Or should we wait for God because we know God's ways are important? Today, we will learn that Saul, the new king of Israel has a problem. Do you think he will take care of the problem by following his way or God's way?

Bible Story:

Israel now has a new king named Saul. Israelites were happy to have a human king as their ruler. King Saul was facing a huge battle against the Philistines and needed God's power to bring his army to victory. The prophet Samuel told King Saul to wait for seven days in Gilgal, when Samuel would come to offer sacrifices to God for the battle. God wanted Samuel to lead everyone in worship before the fighting started.

While waiting for the prophet Samuel to arrive, Saul's men were hiding in bushes and caves and rocks because they were afraid of the Philistines. Saul waited another day. Saul waited three then four days. His men were trembling with fear as the days passed.

He waited five, six, and seven days. His men were beginning to scatter and run away from the army. Still Samuel did not come! On the seventh day, Saul got tired of waiting for Samuel to arrive to make the sacrifices to God. He thought, "I must do the sacrifices myself. I can't wait to do it the way God asked because my men are leaving and the Philistines will come against me any minute now and Samuel hasn't come yet." So, Saul made the sacrifices himself instead of waiting for prophet Samuel like God told him to do! Saul got impatient and did things his way instead of waiting to do things God's way.

Samuel showed up just as Saul was finishing the sacrifices. Samuel was angry. God was angry. God said that he would not allow Saul's kingdom to continue and that he would choose a new king. This means his sons will not become the next king of Israel. Saul thought his ways were better than waiting for God, but God always wants to us know that God's ways are better—even if we have to wait.

The consequences of not following God's ways can be serious. Every time we don't follow God's ways, we're telling God we don't think his ways are important. That's what Saul did. Let's not be like him! Let's choose to love God and obey him because God's ways are important.

Questions to discuss:

1. Who did Saul have to fight? (Philistines)
2. Did Saul and his army feel confident about winning the battle against the Philistines? (No)
3. Who were they waiting for in Gilgal and why? (They were waiting for Samuel to offer sacrifices to God to give them power to win the battle against the Philistines.)
4. What did King Saul do? (Instead of waiting for prophet Samuel, Saul offered sacrifices because he was afraid and did not trust God)
5. What was the result of King Saul's disobedience? (God will choose a new king after him; Saul's sons will not be the next king)

Game: "Listen Carefully"

Materials Needed: Papers with instructions "drive a moto," "ride a bicycle," or "ride a horse" and more.



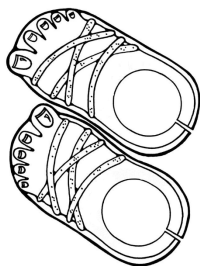
1. Divide children into 4 groups and select a leader for each group.
2. Ask the leaders to get instruction from the teacher.
3. The teacher will have papers that say "drive a moto," "ride a bicycle," or "ride a horse."
4. Then the leaders will go to the back of the line and tell the children not to look back. The leader will tap the shoulder of the first person and show the first person what the instruction was by using body motions. Then this child will tap the person in front and show the same body motions.
5. The last person in the line will have to guess what the motion was. The group that guesses correctly wins the game.
6. The winning team will sing a song for the losing teams, and the losing teams will walk like a duck.
7. After the game, explain to the children if we follow the leader correctly, we win the game. In the same way, if we follow God as our leader, then we will have a successful life.

Memory Verse:

"There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12)

Craft: "I Will Follow God's Way"

Materials Needed: Print sandal, crayons, scissors



1. Print sandal for each child.
2. Let the children decorate the footprint.
3. Have the children cut out the footprint including the circle part.
4. Let the children put on the sandal (see the picture) and say "I will follow God because God's ways are important!"



Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

It's easy to get worried and fearful when things don't look like they're going our way, but because we have Jesus in our lives, we don't need to be afraid! Even after God made Saul the king of Israel, Saul failed to truly trust God. How well does your life demonstrate the faith you have? In what areas does your trust fall short? Trusting in God isn't a matter of saying the right words; it's living out our trust in our actions.

I Will Follow God's Way!

