

## Background to 1 Samuel 15-16:13

After Samuel exposed the Israelites' evil of rejecting God as king, he warned them against turning away from God but also comforted them with assurance. When King Saul was leading Israel's army to fight the Philistines, he failed to trust God by offering sacrifices to God even though only priests are allowed to do this. This revealed Saul's rebellious and unfaithful heart. During Saul's rule, he continued to fight many wars. And Samuel has arrived with a message from God...

### Icebreaker

- a) When you willingly obey someone's instructions, what does it show about your heart or your attitude towards that person?

### Pray

Ask God to help us understand, accept and obey His word even when it is challenging or hard.

### Read 1 Samuel 15

1. \*What was God's instruction to Saul? Why did he give this instruction? (v.1-3, 18, 33) (see Exodus 17:8)

*The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. –Exodus 17:8*

**Anoint:** To pour oil over one's head; a symbol of being chosen by God.

**Amalekites:** Wicked people living south of Israel.

**Mustered:** to gather together

**Ravine:** a deep, narrow valley with steep sides

**Despised:** things that are hated or regarded as bad or dirty.

**Monument:** Memorial or shrine

**Plunder:** loot; goods gained from war

**Divination:** seeking knowledge of the future from evil spirits; witchcraft

**Violate:** to break a law or treat with disrespect

**Hem:** the edge/border of something

**Mourned:** to be very sad or cry

**Heifer:** a cow

**Consecrate:** to make clean or holy

2. When Saul attacked the Amalekites, what did he do? (v.7-9)
3. \*Why did God regret that he had made Saul king? (v.10-11, 29)
4. What was Saul's excuse for disobeying God's commands? (v.15, 20-21)

5. \*How did Saul sinned against God? (v.12, 17-19)

What did Saul do?	What does this action show about Saul's heart?

6. \*What is God's view towards obedience vs. sacrifice? (v.22-23)

7. **Read Genesis 1:1-2, 3, 9.** In Genesis, we see that God created the universe with his voice. God's voice has authority and even the creation obeyed his voice. So when Saul disobeyed God's voice and rejected the word of the Lord, what is Saul doing? (v.22-23)

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty...And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light."....And God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear." And it was so. –Gen 1:1-2, 3, 9.*

8. \*Was Saul truly sorry for his disobedience/sin? If not, what did he cared about more? (v.24-25, 30-31)

9. \***Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.** In rejecting Saul and choosing David as his king, what does God consider most important? (15:22-23, 26-29; 16:7)

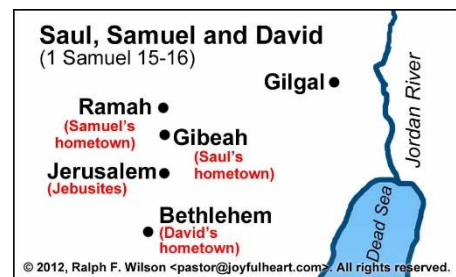
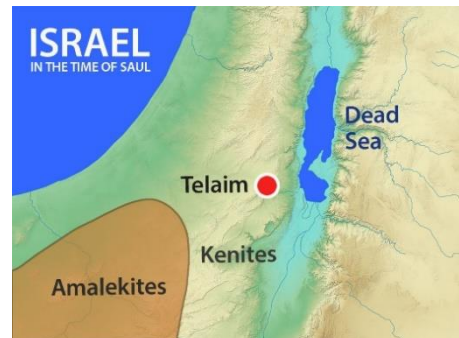
10. \*God's greatest show of grace is through Jesus' death on the Cross for us, but does that mean we no longer need to obey God's commands? Why or why not?

a. **Read John 14:23.** Saul's disobedience showed that, in his heart, he loved himself more than he loved God. How does your obedience to God show that you love him?

*Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. –John 14:23.*

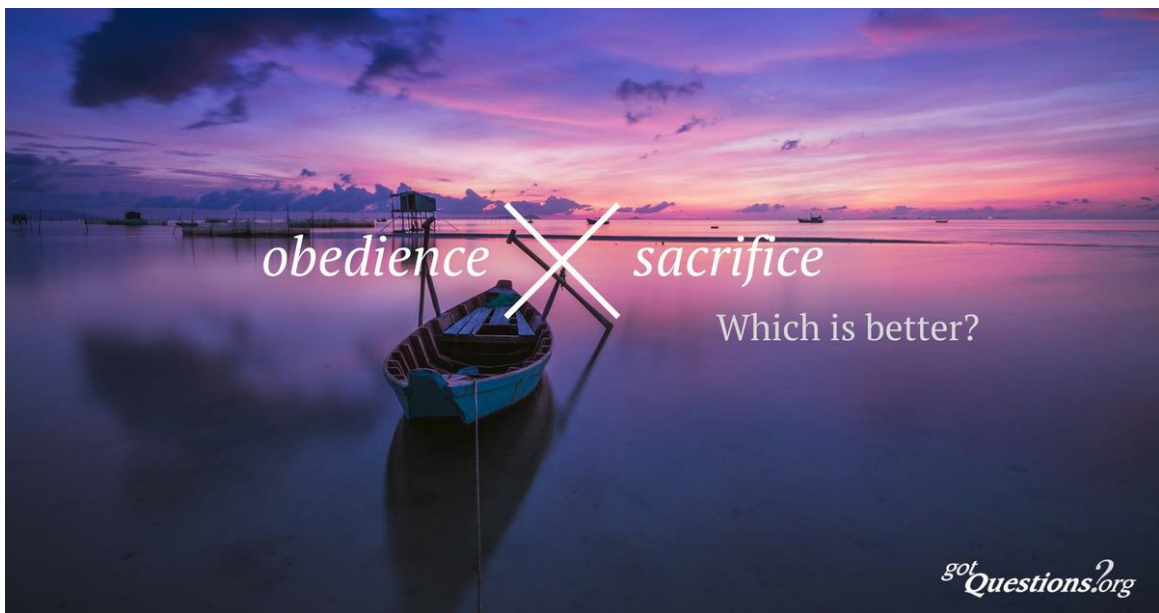
- b. Split into girls and guys groups to discuss. For Christians now, “sacrifice” might look like going to church and reading your Bible which anyone can do to look good on the outside (but this is obedience too!). But how are you going with obeying God in these areas (heart issue)?
- i. Sexual purity (with girl/boyfriend or pornography)
  - ii. Dating (Christian or stay single)
  - iii. Guided more by God’s word vs. our feelings
  - iv. Outward appearance vs. heart
  - v. Humility
  - vi. Words (lies, false statements, cruel words, gossip)
  - vii. Honouring your parents

**Talk Notes**





BIBLE STUDIES 2018



## *Obedience is Better than Sacrifice*

**1 Samuel 15-16:13**