

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)

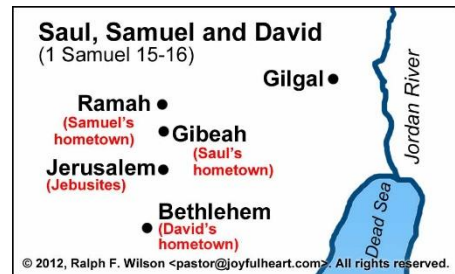
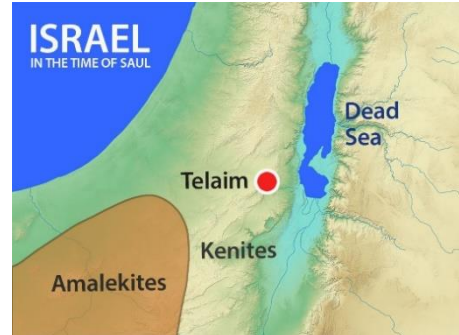
9. ***Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13.** In rejecting Saul and choosing David as his king, what does God consider most important? (15:22-23, 26-29; 16:7)

10. *God looks at the heart and cares about obedience because it reveals their heart/attitude towards God. Do you think your heart is like Saul (see Q5 & 8)?

a. Christians treat God as their Father and King because he created everyone (see Q7 Genesis 1), how do you feel about God being your king? Why?

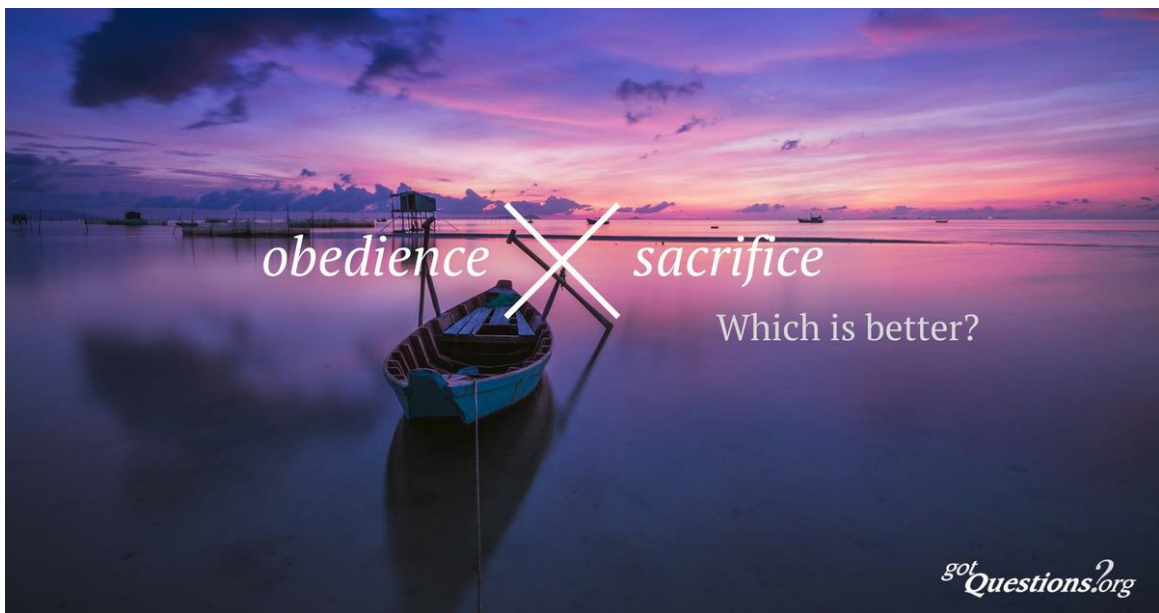
- b. What do you think obeying God is like? How would it change your life? Do you like this?

Talk Notes





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Obedience is Better than Sacrifice

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