## **Lesson Overview**

In today's lesson, we're going to learn about the first king of Israel named Saul. Remember, the Israelites demanded that God give them a king to rule over them because they wanted to be like other nations. God answered their request and selected Saul as king. Saul was a cool dude. He was tall, strong and handsome. But, Saul had a problem that ended up getting him into big trouble. Saul's problem was he forgot who was really in control. God had given Saul his position of power and authority so Saul's job was to obey what God instructed him to do. Saul let his power go to his head and he stopped obeying God. In one story, Saul was to go and conquer a nation but God told him not to let any of his soldiers take anything from the people. Well, Saul and his men didn't fully obey. They didn't take everything but they did keep the best of that nation's animals. When Saul was questioned about his disobedience, he made an excuse that he was going to sacrifice the animals to God. But, that's not what God told him to do. Saul didn't fully obey God and that made God sad and he rejected Saul as king. We need to be careful to not be like Saul and only kind of obey God. We need to obey all the way!

#### Big Idea

We need to obey God all the way!

### **Key Question**

What happens when we disobey?

### **Memory Verse**

1 Samuel 15:22 "Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice...."

### Classroom Agenda

- 1. (5 min) Let kids start working on Activity Page #1. 2nd-5th puzzle key: Obey, Saul, King
- 2. (5 min) WARM UP: Create a list of excuses kids use for not doing chores or homework. How do adults respond to these excuses? (Tip: You might say you forgot because you're tired and busy or you didn't understand what you were supposed to do. Excuses stink and adults don't like them and either does God.)
- 3. (5 min) PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
- 4. (20 min) LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to class to finish this guide.
- 5. (2 min) RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).
- 6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We make God sad and it leads to trouble.** (God doesn't give us rules to follow because he's mean. His rules protect us and help us. So, when God tells us to do something, we need to obey. Disobedience is like saying we don't care about God. And, when we don't listen to God, we will put ourselves in danger.)
  - Bonus Questions: What are we saying to God when we disobey? Why does disobedience lead to trouble? 4-5th How do you feel when someone doesn't listen to you? How can you be better at obeying God?
- 7. (5 min) EXPLORE: Read <u>Joshua 1:8</u>. Meditate just means to read and think. Why is it important to read the Bible? How does obeying the Bible help us? (Answer: The Bible is our instruction manual for life. It tells us what's right and wrong. When we obey God's word, we're safe. When we disobey, we're in danger.)
- 8. (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents and remind them to go online to pursueGODkids.org to find this week's lesson video.

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

# OPTION 1: BIBLE BINGO

#### Instructions:

- Before playing, put a set of Bingo words (page 6) in a bowl or basket.
- Give each kid a Bingo card (page 5) and Bingo words (page 6). Have the kids choose a word for each square of their board. Give each kid a cup of Cheerios, Fruit Loops or Gold fish to be their markers.
- Play Bingo by pulling a word out of the bowl and announcing it to the class. Have the kids put a marker on that word if they have it on their board. Continue playing until someone fills their board.

**Supplies needed:** Bingo Card (pg. 5, pre cut, 1 per kid), Bingo words (pg. 6, pre cut, 1 set per kid), Cereal or Gold Fish, Bowl

# OPTION 2: OBEY ALL THE WAY CRAFT

#### Instructions:

- Give each kid a Caterpillar template (page 7.) Have the kids place the circles in order to say "Obey all the way!" Have them tape or glue the circles to each other to make a caterpillar. Then, have them color their caterpillar.
- Give them a pipe cleaner and have them cut it into smaller pieces to make antennas and feet and have them tape or glue those onto their caterpillar.
- As they work, review the story of Saul. Saul was the first king of Israel who had a lot going for him. But, he had a big problem. He didn't fully obey God and it got him in trouble. Remind the kids how important it is to obey God all the way. When we do, we'll be safe and much happier!

Supplies needed: Caterpillar template (pg. 7, pre cut, 1 set per kid) Tape/Glue, Crayons, Pipe Cleaners

Don't be like King Saul who only kind of obeyed God.

## **Key Points:**

<ul> <li>God picked</li> </ul>	to be Israel's first king.		
King Saul	God's command kind of.		
• God	Saul as king.		
•	obeying is better than		
	obeying.		

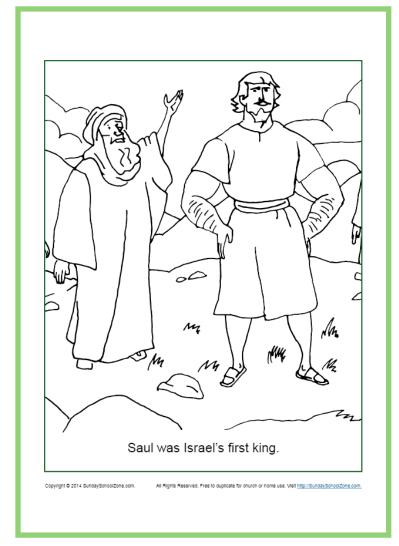
### **Memory Verse:**

1 Samuel 15:22 Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice...

### Talk About It

- 1. What's your favorite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
- 2. Create a list of excuses kids use for not doing chores or homework. How do the adults respond to those excuses?
- 3. Who was Israel's first king?
- 4. How did Saul disobey God? What excuse did Saul give for disobeying?
- 5. Read Joshua 1:8. Meditate just means to read and think. Why is it important to read the Bible? How does obeying the Bible help us?
- 6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

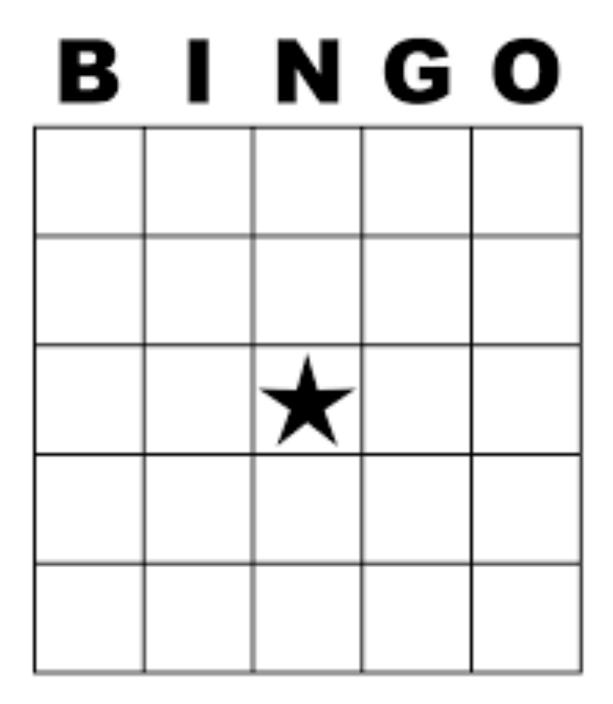
**Instructions:** Color the picture and solve the puzzle.



Big Idea	
Key Question	
Memory Verse	
1 Samuel 15:	"Listen!
	is better than

sacrifice...."

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS				
YBEO				
LUSA				
IGKN				



SAUL	SAMUEL	OBEY	KING
ISRAEL	JOHN	1 SAMUEL	AMOS
JESUS	ОТ	LISTEN	PETER
GOD	BIBLE	ACTS	PROPHET
HANNAH	EXODUS	1 JOHN	ISAIAH
DISCIPLE	JOB	PAUL	LOVE
NT	GENESIS	TITUS	FAITH
PRAY	TRUST	PEACE	TIMOTHY

