

The Lord rejects Saul

**Bible verses:**

1 Samuel 15:1-3,8-12,17-19,22-23

Saul rejected as king

**Aim:**

To reflect upon our own self-control



Today we will be thinking about how we can show self-control, do the right thing, and follow what God is asking us to do.

Saul was asked to obey God as he went into battle with the Amalekites. Instead of doing what God asked, he chose to do his own thing.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- To write a selection of Bible references, each on a separate A4 sheet of paper, and hide for a Scripture hunt – see Action it



Start it

Play a game of *Red Light, Green Light*. The aim of the game is to demonstrate how we show self-control.

Start with everyone along a starting line. When you say, 'Green light' everyone moves. When you say, 'Red light', everyone must stop immediately. If the children are still moving when you say, 'Red light', then they need to return to the starting line.

Start a new round when everyone gets across the finish line or when most players make it past the finish line.



Sing it

Say:

Today we will be thinking about what it means to follow God and show self-control. Our memory verse reminds us to trust that God knows what is best for us. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 *ICB*)

Say:

Our song for today is all about self-control.

Song

'The self-control song' by Cheeky Pandas TV (3:01)



Tell it

Say:

Over the past few weeks we have been learning about King Saul and his leadership of the Israelites.

Ask:

What have we discovered about Saul so far?

Say:

When Saul was first anointed as king, he hid in the baggage so that the people wouldn't see him. He was afraid of what the people thought of him.

Ask:

- Do you ever worry about what other people think? If so, why?
- How can worrying about what other people think sometimes get us into trouble?

Say:

In today's story Saul focuses on what other people think of him rather than doing what God asked him to do. There are many challenging stories in the Old Testament that are full of violence and warfare. It can be difficult to hear these stories when we know that Jesus called us to love others.

Say:

In today's story God asked Saul to defeat the Amalekites, an enemy tribe. God gave specific instructions for how this should be done but Saul didn't follow them. We're going to watch a clip that tells us what happened next. Saul was pleased with his victory over the Amalekites, but Samuel was not impressed – and neither was God.

Video

Samuel rebukes King Saul by Superbook (2:05)

Ask:

- Why was Samuel angry with Saul?
- How did Saul react?
- What message did Samuel give Saul from God?

Say:

Samuel had a clear message from God. We can read it in 1 Samuel 15:22-23.

Read:

'But Samuel answered,

"What pleases the Lord more:

burnt offerings and sacrifices or obedience?

It is better to obey God than to offer a sacrifice.

it is better to listen to God than to offer the fat of male sheep.

Refusing to obey is as bad as the sin of sorcery.

Being stubborn is as bad as the sin of worshipping idols.

You have rejected the Lord's command.

For this reason, he now rejects you as king."

(1 Samuel 15:22-23 *ICB*)

Say:

Saul had decided that he knew better than God and took matters into his own hands.

Ask:

- Why do you think Saul disobeyed God?
- Often, deep down, we know when we are doing something that is disobedient to God, but we do it anyway. Why do you think that is?
- What lesson can we learn from Saul in today's story?



Action it

Say:

We have already shared our memory verse today but let's share it again.

Memory verse

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 *ICB*)

Say:

Our memory verse points out that the Lord's orders and commands make people happy and light up the way. We're going to think about what some of those orders are for us and why they are so important to follow.

Scripture hunt

The aim of this activity is to create a display of some of the orders and commands that God gives us that light up the way. Ask the children to go on a Scripture hunt to find out how God wants us to live and the areas of our lives where we need to show self-control.

Write a selection of the following Scripture references on pieces of A4 paper and stick them around the room. Ask the children to collect a piece of paper, find the Bible verse and discover what it means. They can then write or draw a summary of how that verse tells us to live for God and share it with the rest of the group.

Scripture references

Micah 6:8	Galatians 5:22	Mark 12:30
John 4:24	Ephesians 5:1	Matthew 6:33
Romans 12:2	John 7:24	Ephesians 5:17
Proverbs 1:7	Matthew 5:16	1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
Luke 6:38	Proverbs 3:5-6	Proverbs 13:3



Pray it

Ask:

- Have you ever had a moment where you did something that disappointed your favourite teacher?
- What did it feel like?
- Did you get the chance to put it right? If so, how?

Say:

Samuel was a special teacher in Saul's life. Saul made such a huge mistake during the battle with the Amalekites that he disappointed Samuel and, more importantly, he disappointed God.

Say:

In Session One we saw how Samuel looked after Saul and encouraged him.

Ask:

Which teacher at your school encourages you in the same way as Samuel encouraged Saul?

Talk to the children about the teachers in their life who support them. Give them an opportunity to write thanksgiving prayers for their teachers and those who help them. They may also want to ask God to help them with an aspect of their behaviour where they find it difficult to show self-control.

You may like to share with the children that The Salvation Army's Children and Youth's Schoolswork Conference is meeting on Saturday 16 March 2024. This will be an opportunity for lots of people who work in schools to gather together and find ways to support children in schools. You could incorporate this event into your closing prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



The Lord rejects Saul

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

1 Samuel 15:1-3,8-12,17-19,22-23
Saul rejected as king



Aim:

To reflect upon our own self-control



Discover

In this week's *Explore It* session we thought about what it means to obey God and show self-control.

Watch the clip to discover more about this topic.

Learning self-control (Fruit of the Spirit)
five-minute family devotional by Minno
Kids Bible Stories



Play

Gather the people at home together for a game of *Red Light, Green Light*.

Which members of your family are the best at showing self-control?



Song for the week

'The self-control song' by Cheeky Pandas TV



Memory verse

'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'

(Psalm 19:8 ICB)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online – salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

Saul ignores God



Bible verses:
Psalm 19:8



Aim:
To learn that Saul was not a good king



Memory verse

**'The Lord's orders are right.
They make people happy.
The Lord's commands are pure.
They light up the way.'**

(Psalm 19:8 *ICB*)



Sing It

'Great big God!' Vineyard Kids, Vineyard Worship UK and Ireland (2:51)

'Jesus song' by Saddleback Kids (2:45) This song tells us about the amazing thing Jesus did.



Start it

Saul was not a good king. He did not have self-control, which is when we are able to think before we act.

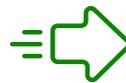


Tell it

For today simply refer to the memory verse and talk about how we use light in our houses, the different lights we have, and if we could manage without it.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Describe your favourite light at home.
- What happens when fireworks light up the sky?
- What does a torch do?
- When might we see candles as light?
- Do you pause before you do things? Why is this a good idea?



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Play Simon Says
- Try and remember a sequence of orders
- Act some emotions on our faces including 'happy'
- Try and catch a light being shone on the ground using a torch
- Play self-control games like musical statues or sleeping lions

