

**THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY**  
**CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON (Pre-K & K)**

**Lesson #38**

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Saul – The First King of Israel

**SCRIPTURE:** I Samuel 9; 10:1, 8-11, 19-27; 11; 12:10, 12-17; 13:9-14; 14:42; 15:10-11; 22

**AIM:** To show the children that obeying God is better than giving Him presents.

**MEMORY VERSE:** I Samuel 15:22b "... Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."

**SONGS:** Trust and Obey – chorus; #153, 146 and 152

**Review:**

Whom did God call when he was a little boy? (Samuel) Where did He call him? (in God's house) Samuel grew up and served God all his life. God's people still had lots of enemies in the land God gave them. Lots of times God's people became like the people that were God's enemies. They worshipped their idols and did things their way.

**Content:**

Up to that time God's people had God as their king. (Their boss) Sometimes God use prophets or judges to help Him, but the Lord were still their leader. Well, after a while, as we said before, God's people copied the ways of God's enemies whom they were supposed to chase out of the land. They wanted a king to be their leader just like the other people. So the Lord finally let them have their way. He told Samuel to anoint (pour oil on the head of) Saul and make him king. Saul was a tall, handsome young man from the tribe of Benjamin.

While Saul was king, God's people fought and won over the Amonites. Another time the Philistines were getting together to fight God's people and God's people were scared and ran away. Saul offered a burnt offering to the Lord. (That was like bringing a present to the Lord) He wasn't supposed to do that. Only priests could do that. Samuel (the prophet) told Saul that he did not obey the Lord and because of this another man would be king.

Another time the Lord told Saul to fight the Amalekites and to save none of the people, animals or things. Saul disobeyed the Lord again. He killed everyone except the king and he killed all the animals except the good sheep and oxen. He also saved the good things the people had. The Lord was very sorry He had made Saul king and He sent Samuel to talk to him. When Samuel told Saul that what he did was wrong, he defended himself. He told Samuel what he did was not wrong. After all, he saved the sheep, oxen and other things to sacrifice to the Lord. He wanted them as presents to the Lord.

But, remember how the Lord told him to destroy everything! Samuel told Saul that the Lord didn't want presents. He wanted Saul to obey Him. He said: "to obey is better than sacrifice," Finally Saul

saw that what he did was wrong and he was sorry but it was too late. Samuel told Saul again that the Lord picked another king.

The Lord let Saul stay king for a while even though He already picked someone else. Saul became more and more disobedient to the Lord. He got angry a lot, he was jealous of the man God picked as the next king and he even tried to kill him.

**Application:**

Saul didn't obey the Lord. He thought bringing presents to the Lord would make the Lord happy. But the Lord only wanted Saul to obey Him. He wanted Saul to have his heart for the Lord. Did you ever disobey Mommy or Daddy and then make something for them or do something for them to make it OK? What really makes the Lord or our parents happy is if we obey.

**Craft Idea:**

Have picture of sheep, oxen, costly things – cut out strips of red construction paper and paste big X made of the strips of red construction paper over each picture. On the right side of the pages have big red heart – with the word obey in it.