



→ **Lesson 3, 1 Samuel 13-15**

When you were growing up, were you a compliant or strong willed child?

As an adult, how would you describe yourself in the area of obedience to authority? (Speed limits, Reporting structures at work, following through on God's commands)

What comes more easily to you: obedience or sacrifice?

Read 1 Samuel 13 – 15, have each person to take a section to read aloud as a group.

Describe what you learn about Saul's character, his hopes, his fears, his relationship with God, his relationship with Samuel? List scripture references.

What do you learn about God?

What does 1 Samuel 15: 22 say about obedience?

Why does God reject Saul as King? Do you feel this is fair or unfair?

Respond to this statement: Obedience isn't complicated it can just be hard to do. Is it true? Why or why not?

What were the reasons Saul gave for not obeying? What is usually your best answer to why you do not obey?

Our victory in obedience is the work of Jesus. As the kingdom was torn from the hands of Saul (1 Samuel 15:27 & 28) so Jesus has torn a greater kingdom from the hands of the Satan. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus He has defeated Satan and made it possible for those who know him to move from under the rule of an evil king and move into the KINGDOM of GRACE and LOVE.

How does knowing Jesus model of obedience help you think about being obedient?

Chapter 15 is a tough passage because of the content. Why does God demand from Saul to completely wipe out Amalekites?

What do the following passages tell you about the Amalekites? Be sure to look at the broader context of each verse.

These passages introduce the Amalekites as a thorn in the side of the Israelites.

Exodus 17:15 Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. 16 He said, "For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

Balaam's prophecy about Amalekites

Numbers 24:20 Then he looked on Amalek and took up his discourse and said, "Amalek was the first among the nations, but its end is utter destruction."

Moses' gives us background to the story from Exodus 17

Deuteronomy 25:17 "Remember what Amalek did to you on the way as you came out of Egypt, 18 how he attacked you on the way when you were faint and weary, and cut off your tail, those who were lagging behind you, and he did not fear God. 19 Therefore when the Lord your God has given you rest from all your enemies around you, in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you shall not forget.

Does is bother you that God would command Saul to wipe all the Amalekites and all their possessions? Why?

How are we like the Amalekites?

How are we different than the Amalekites?

What character attributes about God are evident in this passage?

Does this passage motivate you to share the Gospel with friends, family, co-workers, neighbors who do not know, love and obey Jesus (otherwise they will experience a similar eternal judgment?) Why or why not?

Who is in your circle of 3? What are intentional steps you can take to reach out to them this week?

Where in your life do you need to “just obey”? What keeps you from obedience?

Close in prayer reminding yourselves that God is still good, gracious and kind. That no one deserves grace or mercy. Pray by name for those in your circle of 3 and family that do not yet know Jesus as the redeemer and rescuer.

Here is some background material taken from a commentary

AMALEKITES

Amalekites are used throughout the Bible as a picture of Satan and Satan’s resistance to God and God’s people

Amalekies were a powerful tribe which inhabited the country immediately to the eastward of the northern Cushites. Their territory extended over the whole of the eastern portion of the desert of Sinai to Rephidim—the earliest opponent (De 25:18; Ex 17:8–16)—the hereditary and restless enemy of Israel (Nu 14:45; Jdg 3:13; 6:3), and who had not repented (1Sa 14:48) of their bitter and sleepless hatred during the five hundred years that had elapsed since their doom was pronounced. Being a people of nomadic habits, they were as plundering and dangerous as the Bedouin Arabs, particularly to the southern tribes. The national interest required, and God, as King of Israel, decreed that this public enemy should be removed. Their destruction was to be without reservation or exception.



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