

PEFC Weekly Family & Small Group Study Guide

June 26, 2022

Paynesville Evangelical Free Church
God Uses Ordinary People to Build His Kingdom
Excuses for Disobedience
I Samuel 13:1-15:34



Big Idea

Don't Make Excuses for Disobedience, But Rather Choose to Live by Faith!

1. Disobedience starts when we make decisions without God.
2. Don't try to justify your disobedience to God.
3. Disobedience is to be dealt with by confession and renewed obedience.

Introduction

Relate a time in your life when you had to make a clear choice to obey or disobey. It may have been with your parents, a teacher, boss, coach etc. What choice did you make? What was the outcome? How did your choice affect you or others?

Bible Study Questions

If you haven't already, skim through I Samuel 13:1-15:34.

Have someone read I Samuel 13:5-15. Describe Saul's disobedience. What were the circumstances that led to it? What pressures did Saul face, what was his emotions? How can circumstances and emotions in our lives influence our obedience or disobedience?

What did Saul do that Samuel rebuked him? Why was this such a big deal (*vs. 13*)? How did Saul's actions reflect his heart (*note also, Saul's response in vs. 11-12*)? Reflect on how our actions to obey or disobey God in a specific situation reflect our heart. Share a personal example if you are comfortable.

Chapter 14 introduces another hero figure, Jonathan. Compare and contrast Jonathan to Saul. Where did Jonathan put his confidence (vs. 6, 10, 12)? How is this contrasted by Saul's actions? In what ways are you like (or act) like Jonathan? Saul?

Describe the outcome of Jonathan's actions in verses 15-23. Who does the text portray as the real hero (vs. 15, 23)? What does this story teach us about how God can use those who trust and obey him?

Describe what happened in verses 24-45. How does this illustrate the priority of obeying God over man in given circumstances (*note verse 45*)?

Describe how Saul once again disobeys in chapter 15. What correlation do we see between Saul's actions and his heart (*note vs. 12, 19*)? How does Saul respond to Samuel? What does this teach us about his heart condition? How do we sometimes try to justify our actions to the Lord?

Read verses 22-23. Note the contrast between obedience and disobedience. How does the text describe the heart of the disobedient (vs 23)? Why should these verses (and chapters) bring us to a point of confession?

Next Steps

Make a list of some of the pressures and circumstances that might tempt you to act on your own power verses God's. Renew your commitment to the Lord in light of these.

Reflect on some victory that God has brought in your life when you acted out of trust toward him.

Confess any area of your heart or actions that the Lord reveals as arrogant, rebellious or rejecting God's word (15:23).

Prayer

Thank God for his delight and victories in a heart that trusts and obeys him. Share life needs within your group and pray for one another. Remember that prayer requests need to remain confidential and not be repeated outside your group without permission.