

## WARM-UP

## WORD

<sup>22</sup>And Samuel said, "Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. <sup>23</sup>For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, he has also rejected you from being king." **1 SAMUEL 15:22,23**

(Read also **1 SAMUEL 15**.)

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Saul was chosen by God and anointed king of Israel. However, Saul did not completely follow God and he lost his kingship because of it. Like Saul, we can either follow ourselves or follow God. But if we are followers of Jesus Christ, then we will do what He says and what He wants. Our obedience to His commands, which may seem small and inconsequential to us, is big to God. And our life, which may seem big and central to us, is actually small and minute compared to the greatness and glory of God. In this lesson, we will look at three lessons from Saul's life and leadership.

## 1 God can use anyone to lead.

*And Samuel said, "Though you are little in your own eyes, are you not the head of the tribes of Israel? The Lord anointed you king over Israel." **1 SAMUEL 15:17***

The Bible says that Saul viewed himself as little, and therefore did not expect to be anointed king of Israel. But God chose Saul in spite of the way he viewed himself. God can use anyone to lead—whether or not we have the desire, experience, or qualifications. With God's power and ability, we can do things we could not have done on our own. How did you become a leader?

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## 2 Obedience to God is not optional.

<sup>18</sup>"And the Lord sent you on a mission and said, 'Go, devote to destruction the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed.' <sup>19</sup>Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" **1 SAMUEL 15:18,19**

God gave Saul instructions through Samuel, but Saul did not follow these. This wasn't incomplete obedience; it was disobedience. The truth is, God values our obedience to Him more than our sacrifice. That's why He was grieved by Saul's actions and stripped him of the kingdom. According to James 4:6, what does God do to the proud? What does He do for the humble?

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## 3 God's honor matters most.

*Then he said, "I have sinned; yet honor me now before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before the Lord your God." **1 SAMUEL 15:30***

After Saul disobeyed God, though he was repentant, he had to face the consequences of his sin. However, he pleaded with Samuel to be honored in front of the people. In whatever we do, God's honor should matter more than ours. What were the consequences of Saul's sin (1 Samuel 15:10,11,26,35)?

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