

Watch the Bible story video or read all or parts of Samuel 14–15 from the Bible.



In 1964, Jim Marshall, a linebacker for the Minnesota Vikings, made history for the wrong reasons. The opposing team fumbled the football, which Jim picked up and ran 66-yards into the end zone! The problem was that Jim had run the wrong way! Instead of 6 points for his team, Jim's mistake gave 2 points to the other team!

Like Jim, we all make mistakes, and mistakes have consequences. For King Saul, his mistake was disobeying God, and it cost him his kingship. After defeating the Amalekites, Saul's army took the sheep, goats, and cattle for themselves. God's instructions were to destroy everything and take nothing, but the men were hungry and did not obey God's commands. Because of Saul's disobedience, Samuel told Saul that God was disappointed and would soon replace him with another king.

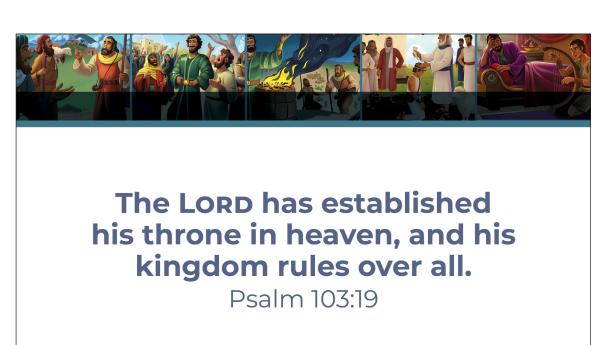
Even though Saul was king, he was not perfect. Saul sinned against God, and his sin had consequences. Our sin has consequences too—the biggest of which is to be separated from God for all eternity. Our only hope is found in Jesus—the perfect King! Opossums are known for "playing dead" when a predator attacks. When threatened, the animal's body goes limp, its tongue comes out of its mouth, and a pungent odor is released to make it smell like the animal has been dead for a while. Talk about a stinky situation!

Saul disobeyed God's commands and was rejected as king. We all disobey God's commands when we sin. Only Jesus perfectly obeyed God at all times. When we believe in Jesus, we are made right with God and accepted by Him.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for perfectly obeying God, even to the point of death on a cross. Because You perfectly obeyed and gave Your life for us, we can have forgiveness and acceptance by believing in You. We praise You as the perfect King. Amen.



The key passage below is focused on at church. Consider talking about what this passage means and memorizing it as well.





Finish your family worship experience by playing the Key Passage song to worship and as a further way to memorize Scripture.



Mornings

Ask God to remove pride in your life and to help you put others first. How does pride in ourselves stop us from loving others as we should? How can pride lead us into other sinful behaviors?

Evenings

Ask God to grow your love for Jesus so that you can serve Him with all your heart. Why should our love for Jesus lead us to live in obedience?



For Fun

Play a game of "Mother/Father, May I?" as a family. Have one family member give instructions to others on how many steps to take and how they should take the steps (baby steps, giant steps, bunny hops, and so forth.) Before taking the steps, the family member must ask, "Mother/Father, may I?" If they fail to ask before taking a step, they must go back to the beginning and start over. After the game, discuss the ways Saul disobeyed God and the consequences that came from his sin. Remind kids that sin has consequences, and that God always has a better way for us to follow so we can enjoy and glorify Him.

To Serve

Put together care baskets for cancer patients who are undergoing treatments. Search online to get ideas of items to include in the basket. Deliver the basket to a patient or donate through a local cancer center. Take a moment to pray for the patient and their treatments. Reminds kids that even though the patients are enduring trials that they would not have chosen for themselves, God is still good and has a plan for their lives.