

General Church Education



Saul's Disobedience

1 Samuel 9:1-2; 13:1-15

Lesson 13

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

I Samuel 9:1-2; 13:1-15

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

With the first king of Israel, a new kind of leadership for the Israelites emerged. The Israelites wanted to be like the nations around them and have an earthly king rule them and lead in battle. They chose Saul because he looked big and strong, but he did not turn out to be wise.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ A king stands for the ruling love or guiding principle in our lives. When we love and trust the Lord, He is our King.
- ❖ The Jewish people began as a large family. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob or Israel and Joseph were the patriarchs that led them. The patriarchs made covenants with the Lord and followed what He told them. So the Jewish people had spiritual leaders.
- ❖ After Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and Joshua helped them conquer the land of Canaan, they became comfortable and "did what was right in their own eyes" instead of looking to the Lord. Then their enemies grew strong and began to attack once again.
- ❖ Finally the people wanted a military leader who would unite all the tribes and fight their enemies. It sometimes seems expedient to us to have our own way, but in doing so, we may be rejecting the Lord.

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

When Saul was made king, He followed the Lord's laws at first. Then he began to decide for himself what he should do. He disobeyed the Lord, so the Lord's Spirit left him and another king was chosen.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ♦ Have you ever wanted to be like your friends instead of doing what you know is right or what your parents asked you to do?

There was a time when the ancient Israelites felt this way. You remember that the Lord had taken very good care of them. He brought them out of Egypt where they had been slaves.

- ♦ **How did they get across the Red Sea?** (The Lord parted the water when Moses raised his rod and the Israelites went across on dry land.)
- ♦ **What food did the Lord send them each day as they traveled back to Canaan?** (Manna and quails.)
- ♦ **What laws did the Lord give them from Mt. Sinai?** (The Ten Commandments.)

The Lord led them to a beautiful land He had promised them so they could build their own houses and work in their own fields for food.



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

When the Israelites looked to the Lord to guide them, things went well. But when the Israelites became settled in their own land, they forgot the Lord. They got into trouble. Their old enemies began to attack them. They prayed to the Lord for help and He sent it. Still they wanted to be like the nations or people around them; they wanted a king to lead them into battle. They wanted one of their own people to be king instead of looking to the Lord as their King.

The Lord knew they were determined to do this so He let them choose a man named Saul. Let's find out why they liked him so well.



Read **I Samuel 9:1-2**.

Why did they like Saul? (Because he was good-looking and tall. He stood head and shoulders above the other people.)

Because Saul looked so strong and tall the people were glad to have him as their leader. They thought he would be well respected or looked up to and feared by their enemies. So men quickly joined Saul's army. He went out to attack the Ammonites, one of their enemies, and won a great victory. You can imagine the Israelites were proud of their new leader.



But, you cannot always judge people by their looks. We show what we are really like by the way we act. It was this way with Saul too. He looked good on the outside. He was young, strong and brave. However, we will see that he was not very wise. True wisdom is in obeying the Lord.

Soon the Philistines got ready to attack Israel. They were a very large and strong enemy. The Israelites knew they were in danger and were greatly afraid. Saul gathered his army at a place called Gilgal and prepared to fight.

At this time a man named Samuel was serving not only as a judge but also as the Lord's priest and prophet, which meant that he spoke for the Lord. Samuel told King Saul to wait at Gilgal for seven days and he would come to offer the sacrifice before Saul went into battle. It was the job of the priests to offer sacrifices. Saul knew that Samuel spoke for the Lord and that he ought to obey. But on the seventh day, Saul became impatient and offered the sacrifice himself. Just as he finished Samuel came. Listen to the excuse Saul gave.



Read **I Samuel 13:8-14**.

What was Saul's excuse? (Time was running out and his men were leaving or scattering from him.) Yes, he wanted to go into battle and fight the Philistines. He grew tired of waiting for Samuel. But only a priest was supposed to offer a sacrifice for the people. Did Saul obey the Lord or act foolishly? (Foolishly.)

Because Saul disobeyed, the Lord could not be with him in the same way, and Saul did not win a victory over the Philistines. What did Samuel tell Saul? (He would not continue as king.)

Saul looked good, but do you think he was wise? (No.) A really wise king would love the Lord. If you love the Lord, you would want to obey Him, wouldn't you? (Yes.) What are some things you could do today that would be obeying the Lord?

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **Why did the Israelites want a king to lead them in battle?** (To be like the other nations or people around them.)
- ♦ **What kind of king did they choose?** (Strong, tall and good-looking.)
- ♦ **Whom did they choose?** (Saul.)
- ♦ **Was it easy for him to gather a fighting army?** (Yes.)
- ♦ **Did the Israelites win their first battle under Saul?** (Yes.)
- ♦ **Did they win the next battle with the Philistines after Saul disobeyed the Lord?** (No.)
- ♦ **Why not?** (Saul disobeyed and offered the sacrifice himself instead of waiting for the priest Samuel.)
- ♦ **What do you think a wise king would have done instead?** (Obeyed and waited for Samuel.)
- ♦ **Do you think the Israelites were happy with their choice of a king? Why or why not?**

SAUL'S DISOBEDIENCE

ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35



Project choices:

The Lord Knows Our Hearts project
Color a picture of Saul and the sacrifice



Songs:

Come, Thou Almighty King—Listen and download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-come-thou-almighty-king/>
Little Lamb, Who Made Thee?—Listen and download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-little-lamb-who-made-thee/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ We do not sacrifice as part of our worship today. We read from the Word, pray to the Lord and sing hymns. Draw a picture of your favorite part of worship.
- ❖ Cut pictures out of magazines or draw your own pictures and make a collage showing ways to obey the Lord's commandments: people smiling, sharing, playing or working nicely together, doing kind things for others, worshiping, reading the Word and so forth.
- ❖ Talk about patience and how to work on having it in our lives.

The Lord Knows Our Hearts

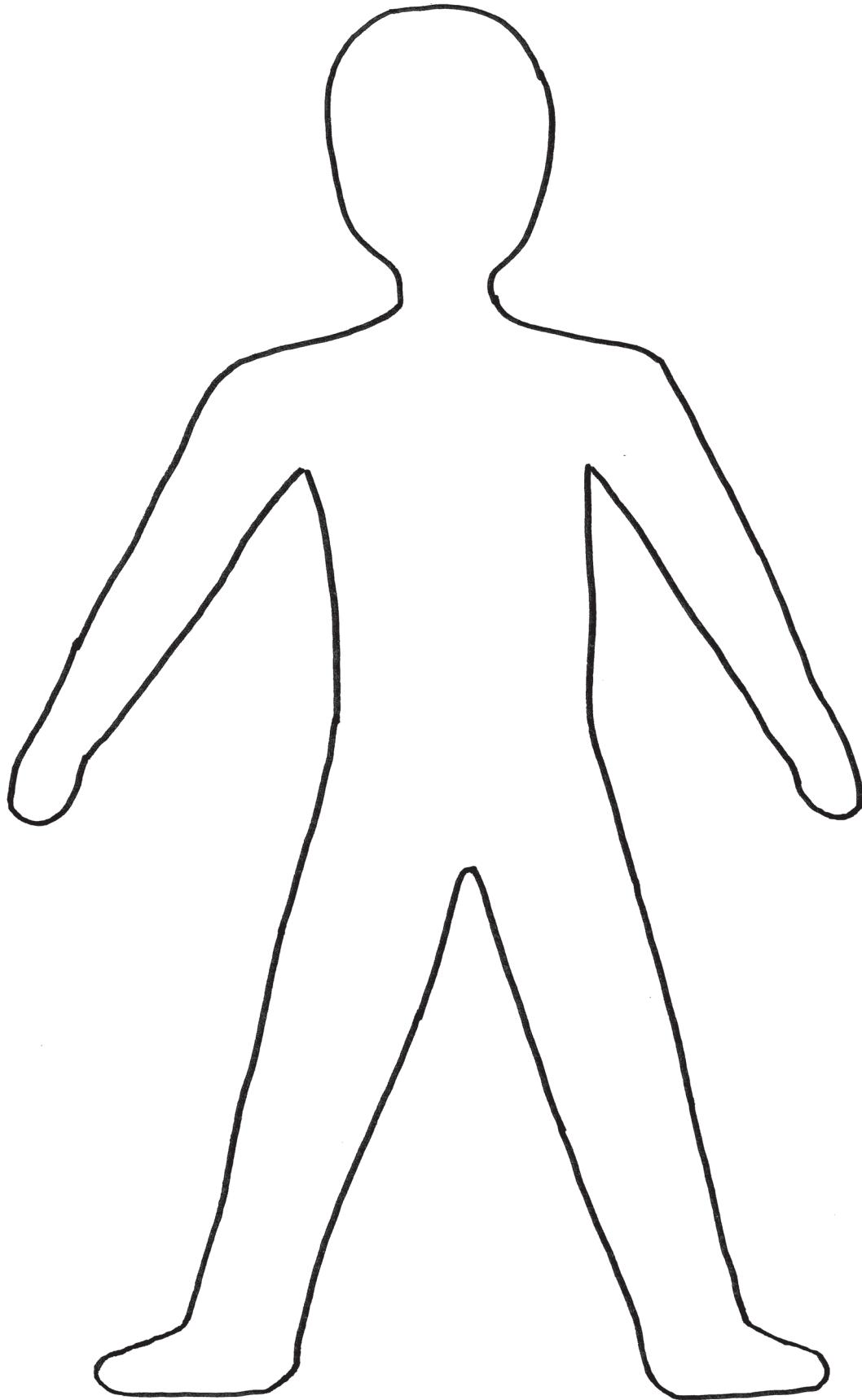
This project helps children understand that the qualities inside a person are more important than how we look on the outside. While doing the project, talk about how we know more about people by the way they act than by what they wear.

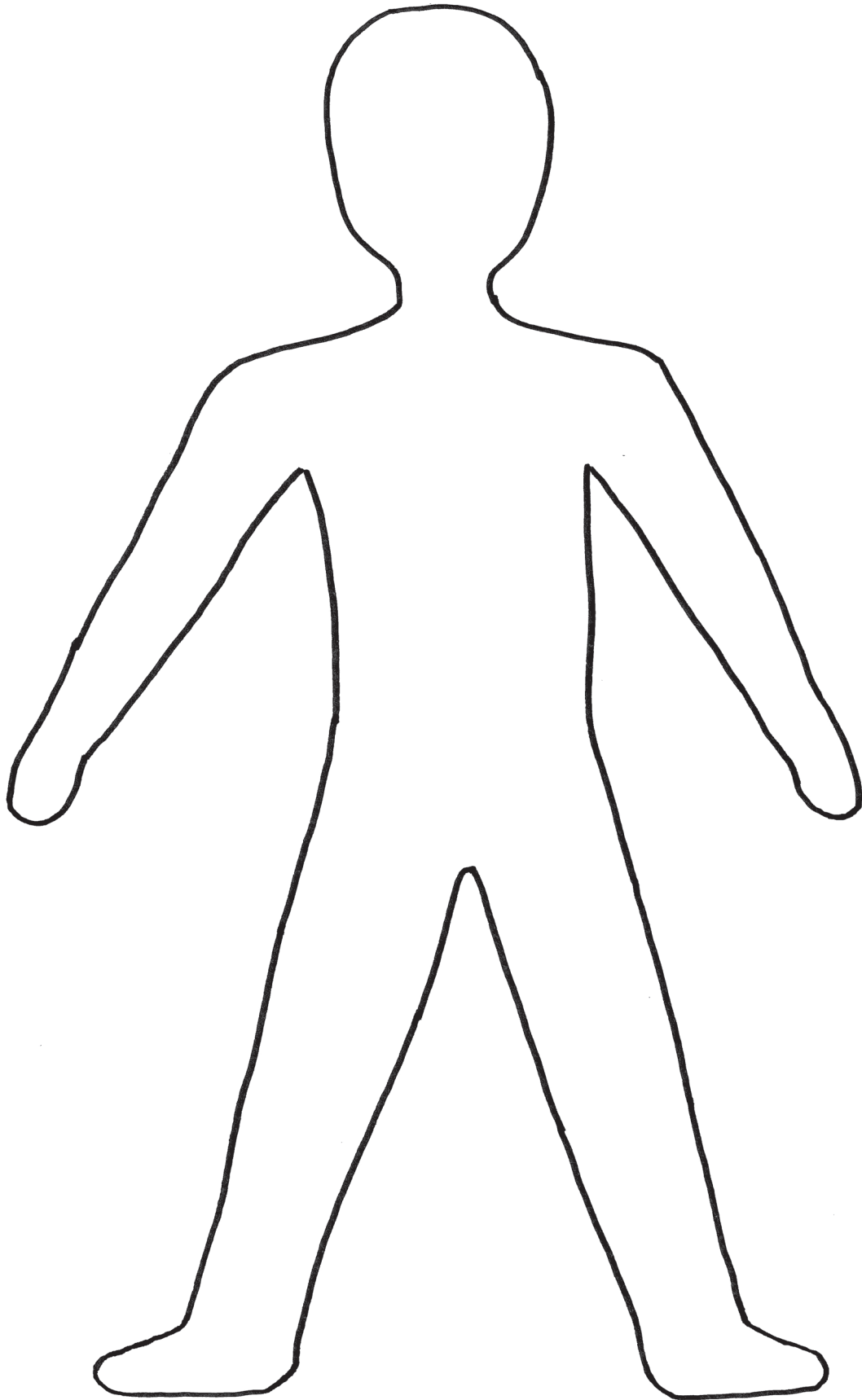
Supplies:

2 printed pages
crayons or markers
pencil
tape

Project instructions:

1. Using crayons, color a picture to make it look like you. What color hair and eyes do you have? What color clothes are you wearing? You may want to color yourself in your favorite outfit or sports uniform.
2. Use a crayon to draw a heart on the second figure.
3. What makes a good heart. What kinds of things would you do? Teacher uses pencil to write some of these things on the outline figure. Or draw small pictures showing ways to be kind and helpful.
4. Put the page that looks like you over the one with the heart on it. Tape them together along the top edge. The first page shows how people see you on the outside. If you flip over the top page, you will see a picture of what is in your heart. This is how the Lord knows each of us. People around us will come to see us this way by how we act.







Recitation Award: Saul's Disobedience

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

