

# Saul's Impatience

1 Samuel 13:1-15

## Teacher Preparation

Read background materials from the Dole *Bible Study Notes*: <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/dbsn-3-06-sauls-impatience.pdf>

## Introduction

Welcome the kids and ask them how they're doing.

## Read and Discuss

1. Ask if the kids remember how Saul became king (He was young, and out looking for his father's donkeys, and Samuel took him aside and anointed him king.) How did he feel when he first became king? (very surprised, and humble—he didn't believe that he was worthy) How has he changed? (he thinks he knows better than everybody else, including Samuel)
2. Read 1 Samuel 13: 1-15. Ask the kids why Saul didn't wait. (because he thought his soldiers were deserting him; he wanted to go into battle before any more deserted) Samuel arrived right after Saul made the sacrifice. Did Saul take responsibility for his actions? It sounds like he was making excuses, and saying that it wasn't his fault. He said that he had to, because people were leaving, and Samuel got there too late.
3. What was Saul supposed to do? (wait for Samuel to do the sacrifice) Do you feel sorry for Saul—was it hard to wait? Have you ever been in a situation where you knew the right thing to do, but you felt like you had good reasons to not do that right thing? We all have. Sometimes it is hard to do the right thing when we think we know a better way.
4. Do map activity now (see below)
5. Could you fill out the map without the help of an actual map? Why not? We don't know everything, and often we rely on people or sources for information that are smarter than us. If I were to ask you if you believed in God, would you probably say yes? But what if we talked about how believing in the Lord means really truly believing that He is smarter than us, and knows more than us, can we all honestly say that we totally believe that? The Lord has a lot of rules (commandments) and it is rare for a person to follow every one every minute of every day. The Lord says that we should honour the Sabbath day—do you keep every Sunday to be a holy day? The Lord says to honour your mother and your father—do you *\*always\** act kindly and respectfully to them? So maybe it sounds like you sometimes think that you are smarter than the Lord, doesn't it? (Time permitting, feel free to encourage a discussion based on doing what we want to do vs. what the Lord says to do, including things that are obvious [murder, stealing, etc.]; things that are not so obvious [fun things that peers are doing, etc.,] plus examples from the kids.) Well, you're not alone, most adults are still trying to learn this lesson also—but you do need to start now, and keep working on it for your whole life.

## Read and Discuss (continued)

6. Another thing to point out is that when they were doing the map activity, asking their friends wasn't much help either, because they didn't know the answers either. We need to remember that we may be tempted to ask what our friends think, and get their advice. They may give advice that sounds good, but remember, they don't really know either—it's the Lord that we should be asking for advice.
7. There is another important lesson here as well. Saul was too impatient to wait for Samuel, which means he was really too impatient to wait for the Lord. The Lord knows what He is doing. He has a plan for everyone's life. He knows when the right time is for something to happen to you, and He will make sure it will happen at the right time, if it is meant to happen. But we very often get impatient waiting, and try to do things to speed it up, like Saul did. Some people want to get rich, or buy something nice, or be smarter, \*now\*! Sometimes the Lord knows that certain things might not happen until we get to Heaven, but we still need to trust His timing.
8. While we wait for the perfect thing to happen, there are important things to do. One is to trust that the Lord is leading you; another is to keep reading the Lord's Word (and the Writings) to learn more about the Lord and how He does things. One of the most important things to do though is to keep trying to do the right thing. If you sit around feeling sorry for yourself, nothing good will happen. We all need to do our jobs the best we can do, and keep learning, and keep helping other people. If we stay active and busy, and concentrate on helping others, it's easier for the Lord to come and help us the way we were hoping for.

## Activities and Project

- Map activity: (here are the basic instructions: <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/ss-project-1samuel13-sauls-impatience-9-11.pdf>) Show kids blank map of the Holy Land. Give them the post-it notes with place names and ask them to please put them onto the map (as a group, helping each other). (see project instructions attached)
- When they give up, give them an actual map so they can place the locations correctly.
- After the discussion, give every student a hand-out to colour the words (if time) or to take home as a reminder to always trust in the Lord, and His timing. If there is time colour a decorative border around the words.

## Supplies

- Copy of the Word
- Print out (or be able to show the pictures on a device) a selection of these pictures illustrating the story from:  
[https://i2.wp.com/truth2u.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/110\\_05\\_0016\\_BiblePaintings.jpg?ssl=1](https://i2.wp.com/truth2u.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/110_05_0016_BiblePaintings.jpg?ssl=1)  
[https://graceofourlord.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/saul\\_sacrifice.jpg](https://graceofourlord.files.wordpress.com/2012/05/saul_sacrifice.jpg)
- Large map with basic outline of the land of Canaan—print from <http://web.ovu.edu/terry/gospels/palolmap.htm> (preferably on legal or ledger size paper, but letter size is fine)
- Small Post-it notes with place names written on them: Damascus, Tyre, Mt. Carmel, Endor, Samaria, Shechem, Shiloh, Joppa, Ekron, Gilgal, Ai, Jericho, Bethel, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gaza, Gath, Beersheeba, Golan
- Actual map of Canaan—print out from <https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney2/22-the-world-of-the-old-testament-journeys/ancient-israel/>
- Hand-outs, one for each student

Faith in God

Includes Faith in

His Kingdom