

# Adventures with GOD!

## GOD REJECTS SAUL (C.1.Fall.4)

Biblical Reference	1 Samuel 15:1-35
Key Verse	1 Samuel 15:22
Key Concept	When I sin I make excuses for what I've done, but in reality I experiment the consequences and it makes God sad.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Express what it feels like to sin</li><li>2. Identify some common sins and excuses we give</li><li>3. Explain the consequences of sin, including when we make excuses for our disobedience</li></ol>

### LIFE APPLICATION

From the story and life of Saul, the children will see in a concrete way the consequences of disobedience. It's important that they understand that the way of the Lord is the best way to live our lives. Rebellion takes us down other roads. The consequences are always painful, even when we try to hide or deny that we've done something wrong. From the story of Saul we can understand that we all need to put our trust in God and follow God's ways so that we can experience life to the fullest.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Black paper and sad faces	15 minutes
Channel 7 news	accessories	15 minutes
Activity	Paper and pencils	10 minutes
Dialogue		10 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Important information:** In this story we see Saul's heart. He wanted to give the appearance that he was a man who followed God, but his heart was full of sinful desires. On the outside he looked obedient, but he was really deceitful. The law of the Lord was to destroy the plunder or spoils of the enemy. But, Saul took the best things and kept them for his own use. The worst of it was that he tried to hide his own sin. He was trapped in his own sin and finally admitted what he had done. But at the same time he kept making excuses until Samuel told him that God would take the kingdom from him.

**Activity:** When the children arrive in the classroom, start to decorate it as if it were a place of mourning. They can use black paper, symbols of mourning (sad faces) etc. The children can use their imagination to think of things that would communicate that it is a sad place. In addition, you can tell them this is why you asked them to come to class this week dressed in black. You could make flower arrangements and bring them to create an environment of mourning.

**Channel 7 news:** As the teacher, you will take the role of director today. Announce the news of the day – the sad news (use the information given in 1 Samuel 15:1-35). The camera person will have to do his or her role as always. The children can interview you asking the question of why King Saul was rejected (think about the ways that we give the news when someone important has died, how do the news announcers act/what kind of facial expressions do they have, etc, how does the general public react? What questions and concerns do they have?

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**Activity:** Worksheet. Make photocopies, one for each child. The worksheet is called “Excuses, Excuses.”

**Dialogue:** Talk about what the contents of the worksheet are. Try to emphasize the need to have God’s help when we are facing temptations (Saul’s reaction is a very human one, but it’s not how God would like us to respond. Too often people use the excuse of their “humanity” to try to justify their sins). God wants to help us, but we also need to be responsible for the decisions we make when we encounter temptations in life. Talk about the importance of admitting our failures and sins – confessing them to God and to others that we trust; as well as asking forgiveness from the person we sinned against. God is happy when we come to him with a heart that’s repentant. When we admit our sins God can forgive us and restore the relationships that have been affected. As a result we will experience the abundant life that God wants us to experience. When we try to look good in front of others, even God, when we try to appear perfect we are lying to ourselves and others. The children themselves can ask God for forgiveness if they feel comfortable doing it in front of their classmates, or allow them time to pray silently to God.

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It’s good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## INFORMATIONAL SHEET

### Ingredients necessary to make a good decision

1. Read the Bible
2. Pray
3. Ask advice of a wise adult
4. Confirmation (opportunities and possibilities)
5. Act in wisdom and have peace when you make the decision

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## WORKSHEET

### Excuses, Excuses

#### Read Psalm 51:17

Here you will find some things that are not pleasing to God. We call them sin. Write what you would say if you had to admit that you had committed some of these sins. Write an excuse that you would give instead of confessing the sin.

SIN

CONFESSION

EXCUSE

Cheating on a test

Stealing something small

Lying to your parents

Being rude to your brother or sister

Saying gossip about another person