

17.4 1 Samuel 12-15

Use in conjunction with the Student Manual

Student Name:

What are some reasons people might use to try to justify or excuse their disobedience to the Lord's commandments?

Read 1 Samuel 12:14–15, 25, and identify the warning Samuel gave as he spoke to the Israelites.

Read 1 Samuel 13:5–8, looking for how some Israelites responded when the Philistine army advanced. Why do you think the Israelites were so afraid?

Read 1 Samuel 13:9–12, looking for what Saul did in these critical circumstances.

What reasons did Saul give to try to justify his disobeying the Lord's commandments?

Read 1 Samuel 13:13–14, looking for a consequence of Saul's disobedience.

1. How could understanding the preceding principle help someone resist any attempt to try to justify disobedience to the Lord's commandments for any reason?

Do you think Jonathan should have been put to death? Why or why not?

Read 1 Samuel 15:7–9, looking for whether Saul obeyed the Lord.

2a. 1 Samuel 15:13. What did Saul say he had done?

b. 1 Samuel 15:14–15. How did Saul try to justify the fact that he and his soldiers had been only partially obedient to the Lord's commandment? (Think about how Saul's situation is like the example mentioned earlier of praying and reading scriptures each day but not attending Church meetings.)

c. 1 Samuel 15:16–17. What do these verses imply about how Saul's attitude had changed since the time he was anointed as king?

d. 1 Samuel 15:18–21. Even after being rebuked by Samuel, what did Saul do?

e. 1 Samuel 15:22–23. What is the most important offering we can give the Lord?

3. What experiences have you had that have helped you understand the importance of striving to obey the Lord completely?

Read 1 Samuel 15:24, and note the explanation Saul gave for disobeying the Lord.

4. Write about two or three examples of this principle in our day.

5. What is one way you will apply what you have learned today?

6. Additional questions, thoughts, and insights I would like to share with my teacher:
