

Story Time - Read the story to the children
Lesson 77: SAUL IS REJECTED BY GOD
1 SAMUEL 15:10-35

The word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, I am sorry I made Saul king, because he has turned back from following me, and has not obeyed my commandments. Samuel was angry, and he cried out in prayer to the LORD all night. Early the next morning he went to talk with Saul. Someone told him, "Saul went to Carmel, where he had a monument built so everyone would remember his victory. Then he left for Gilgal." Samuel finally caught up with Saul, and Saul told him, "I hope the LORD will bless you! I have done what the LORD told me." "Then why," Samuel asked, "do I hear sheep and cattle?" "The army took them from the Amalekites," Saul explained. "They kept the best sheep and cattle, so they could sacrifice them to the LORD your God. But we destroyed everything else." "Stop!" Samuel said. "Let me tell you what the LORD told me last night." "All right," Saul answered. Samuel continued, "You may not think you're very important, but the LORD chose you to be king, and you are in charge of the tribes of Israel. When the LORD sent you on this mission, he told you to wipe out those worthless Amalekites. Why didn't you listen to the LORD? Why did you keep the animals and make Him angry?" "But I did listen to the LORD!" Saul answered. "He sent me on a mission, and I went. I captured King Agag and destroyed his nation. All the animals were going to be destroyed anyway. That's why the army brought the best sheep and cattle to Gilgal as sacrifices to the LORD your God." "Tell me," Samuel said, "Does the LORD really want sacrifices and offerings? No! He doesn't want your sacrifices. He wants you to obey Him. Rebelling against God or disobeying Him because you are proud is just as bad as worshiping idols or asking them for advice. You refused to do what God told you, so God has decided that you can't be king." "I have sinned," Saul admitted. "I disobeyed both you and the LORD. I was afraid of the army, and I listened to them instead. Please forgive me and come back with me so I can worship the LORD." "No!" Samuel replied, "You disobeyed the LORD, and I won't go back with you. Now the LORD has said that you can't be king of Israel any longer." As Samuel turned to go, Saul grabbed the edge of Samuel's robe, and it tore! Samuel said, "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel away from you today, and he will give it to someone who is better than you. Besides, the eternal God of Israel isn't a human being. He doesn't tell lies or change His mind." Saul said, "I did sin, but please honor me in front of the leaders of the army and the

people of Israel. Come back with me, so I can worship the LORD your God." Samuel followed Saul back, and Saul worshiped the LORD. Then Samuel shouted, "Bring me King Agag of Amalek!" Agag came in chains, and he was saying to himself, "Surely they won't kill me now." But Samuel said, "Agag, you have snatched children from their mothers' arms and killed them. Now your mother will be without children." Then Samuel chopped Agag to pieces at the place of worship in Gilgal. Samuel went home to Ramah, and Saul returned to his home in Gibeah. Even though Samuel felt sad about Saul, Samuel never saw him again. The LORD was sorry he had made Saul the king of Israel.

77. SAUL IS REJECTED BY GOD

(1 SAMUEL 15:10-35)



"Then came the word of the LORD to Samuel, saying, 'I am sorry I made Saul king; for he has turned his back from following me, and has not obeyed my commandments.' And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night."

I SAMUEL 15:10-11

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MEMORY VERSE:

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." 1 SAMUEL 15:22

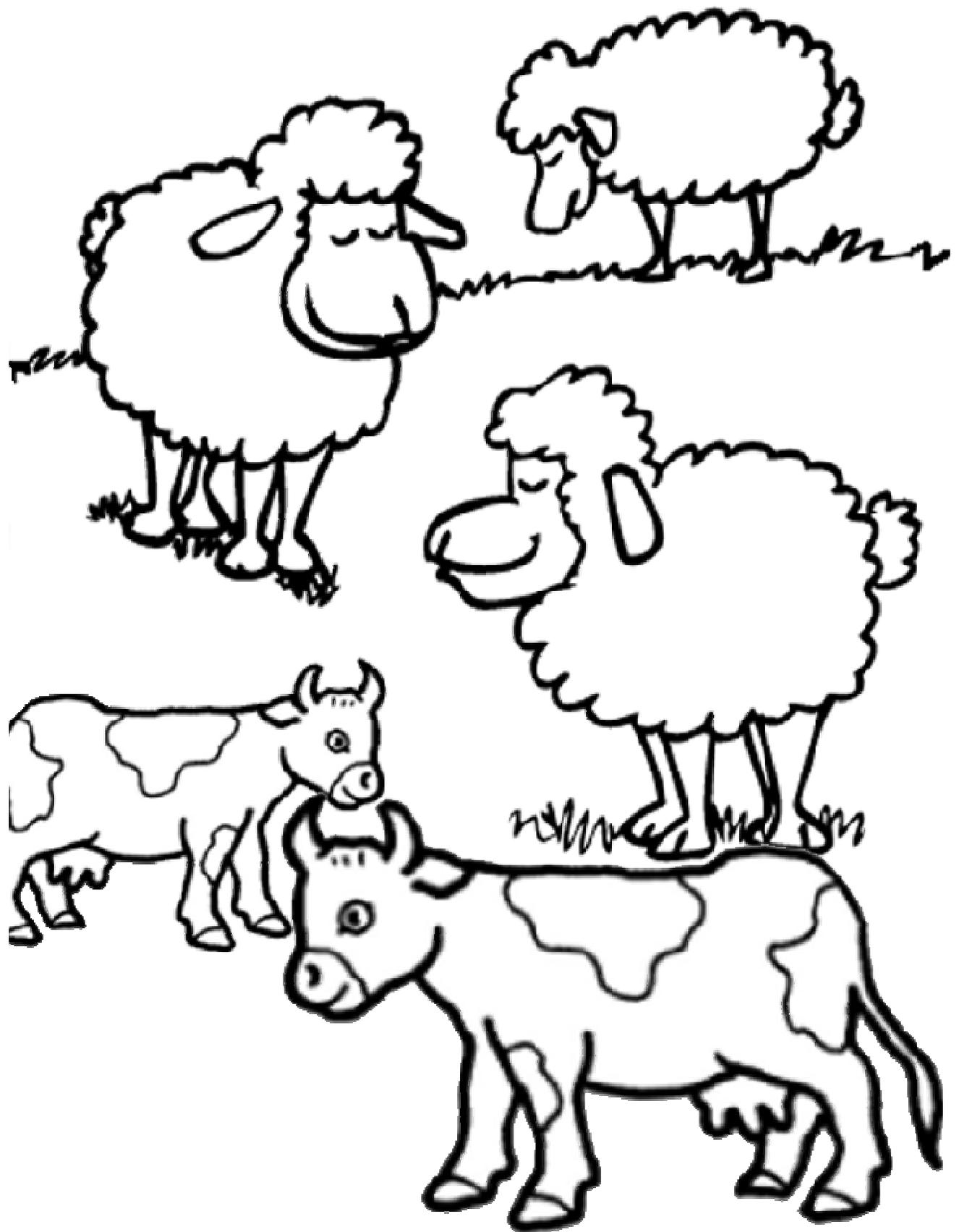
TRUE OR FALSE

1. The word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, I am sorry I made Saul king, because he has turned back from following me, and has not obeyed my commandments. TRUE or FALSE
2. Saul told Samuel, "I hope the LORD blesses you! I have done what the LORD told me to do." TRUE or FALSE
3. "Then why," Samuel asked, "do I hear sheep and cattle?" TRUE or FALSE
4. And Saul said, "Because we bought them at Wal Mart." TRUE or FALSE
5. But Samuel asked Saul, "Why have you obeyed the LORD?" TRUE or FALSE
6. Saul told Samuel that he did obey the LORD, and that they were going to sacrifice the sheep and cattle to the LORD. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. What did Samuel tell Saul is better than sacrifices? Was it to obey?
2. Did Samuel tell Saul that the LORD was not going to let him be king any more? Why?
3. Did Saul tell Samuel finally that he DID disobey the LORD?
4. What did Saul do to Samuel's robe when Samuel tried to leave? Did he tear it?
5. After Saul tore Samuel's robe, what did Samuel tell Saul the LORD was going to do with the kingdom of Israel? Did he say the LORD would tear the kingdom away from him?
6. After Samuel killed king Agag, did he ever see Saul again? Was he sad?

Optional craft for Lesson 77
Color the cattle, and glue cotton onto the sheep.



Lesson 77 Activity

Mission Impossible Relay

The object is for the children to go on a mission for the Lord. But they will have to listen very closely to the directions.

Divide the children into two groups. Have them form two lines at one end of the room. Place two rows of cups (Styrofoam will work) 3 ft. apart in the middle of the room length wise. Set a tape strip for a starting line. Have the children line up behind the line. Using two old books (one's you are willing to have fall on the ground), have the children place the book on their heads. When you say go they are to balance the book on their heads and weave in and out of the cup "obstacle" course and return. Next they are to pass on the book to the next child who will do the same thing. If the groups are uneven, have the first child go a second time to make it even.

Younger ones may need to hold the books.

Only give the children the instructions once. After the relay, ask the children how well they think that they followed instructions.

Why is it important to follow instructions? What happens when we do not follow instructions?

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to obey the Lord no matter what. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.