

Lesson Summary

This lesson from the lives of Samuel and Saul focuses on the importance of listening to God and the consequences of ignoring Him. From an early age, Samuel learned to recognize and obey God's voice, even when it was difficult. His life demonstrates steady faithfulness, humility, and obedience over time.

In contrast, Saul's life shows what happens when a person repeatedly chooses not to listen to God. Though he began with great promise, his impatience, fear of others, and tendency to justify his actions led to spiritual failure and ultimately a tragic end.

The lesson emphasizes that listening to God is essential for living the life we were created for. God speaks through His Word, and we are called to respond with trust and obedience. When we fail to listen, we often try to control outcomes, justify our choices, or manipulate situations, all of which lead us away from God's best.

Ultimately, this lesson reminds us that we each have a choice: to live like Samuel, listening and obeying, or like Saul, doing what seems right in our own eyes. The results of that choice shape the direction of our lives.

Ice-breaker Question

Have you ever realized later that you didn't listen carefully to something important? What were the results?

Discussion Questions for a Group; Journal Questions for Individual Study

1. What can we learn from Samuel's early response, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening"?
2. How did Saul's impatience and fear influence his decisions?
3. Why is it often difficult to wait for God's timing rather than acting on our own?
4. What does it mean to "play to an audience of one" in your daily life?

5. How can religious actions become a substitute for true obedience?
6. How can we better recognize and respond to God's voice through His Word?

Life Application Suggestions, consider and respond

1. Set aside regular time to read the Bible with the attitude, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening."
2. Practice waiting on God before making important decisions instead of reacting quickly.
3. Identify areas where you may be making excuses instead of fully obeying God.
4. Consider writing down personal commitments or principles that guide your decisions in alignment with God's Word.

Prayer Focus

Thank God for speaking to us through His Word. Pray for a listening heart, patience to wait on His timing, and courage to obey Him fully in every area of life.