

Promised Land 2 Study and Discussion Questions
Lesson One: Saul's Disobedience and Rejection – 1 Samuel 13 – 15

Unless otherwise noted, all questions refer to the underlined Scripture references listed at the beginning of each of the five sections within the lesson (often given as readings).

Read 1 Samuel 13.

- 1) From 1 Samuel 10:8, review the instruction that Samuel gave Saul prior to his coronation. What was Saul's sin (1 Samuel 13:8-14)?

- 2) According to 1 Samuel 13:19-22, what particular disadvantage did the Israelite army suffer?

- 3) Samuel told Saul that God would raise up another leader for Israel, a man "after God's own heart" (1 Samuel 13:14). What qualities characterize a person whose heart is right in God's eyes? See Deuteronomy 6:5; 1 Samuel 13:13-14; Psalm 24:4, 28:7, 37:31, 51:10, 57:7, 78:72, 86:11, 119:2; Proverbs 3:5; Acts 13:22. Which of these qualities will you ask the Lord to develop more fully in your own heart?

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23.

- 4) Summarize the story in 1 Samuel 14:1-23.

- 5) From 1 Samuel 14:1-23, what impresses you about Jonathan?

- 6) Re-read 1 Samuel 14:6b and 15b with Ephesians 3:20. For what will you trust God to do more than you ask or imagine, “whether by many or by few”?

1 Samuel 14:24-52

- 7) Saul took a rash oath, according to 1 Samuel 14:24. What were the outcomes?
- 8) 1 Samuel 14:41-42 talks about a process of casting lots to get guidance from God. Why is such a process unnecessary today? See Psalm 119:105 with 2 Peter 1:19, Luke 6:12 with 1 Thessalonians 5:17, and John 14:26, 16:13, with Acts 16:7.
- 9) Which decisions do you currently need to bring before the Lord, in order to ensure you do not act rashly or out of your own wisdom?

Read 1 Samuel 15.

- 10) Recall Achan’s sin (Joshua 6:18, 7:1, 4, 11-12, and 24-25) and re-read 1 Samuel 15:7-9. What did Saul do wrong in 1 Samuel 15 and how serious was this?
- 11) Read Exodus 17:8-16 and Deuteronomy 25:17-19 to understand the history regarding the Amalekites’ sin. If you have completed the *Promised Land 1* study or have had other Bible study experience, attempt to estimate the amount of time that passed between God’s decree against the Amalekites in Exodus 17 and Saul’s partial execution of His order in 1 Samuel 15.

12) What do you learn about God’s judgment from the following passages: 1 Samuel 15:3, 6; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7; 2 Peter 3:3-9; Revelation 20:12-13? Whose eyes will you ask God to open to their need for repentance?

1 Samuel 15

13) In 1 Samuel 15:12, 30-33, what indicators are given about the condition of Saul’s heart?

14) Read Jeremiah 17:9.

- a) Who did Saul blame for his sin (include the verse numbers)?
- b) What other excuse did Saul give for not obeying God fully (include the verse numbers)?
- c) What does 1 Samuel 15 teach about partial obedience (see verses 11, 19, and 26)?

15) Carefully read 1 Samuel 15:22-23.

- a) What do you learn about God’s desire for you from this passage?
- b) Exactly how do you think the Lord wants you to apply this timeless truth?