

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 10/25/26 Jordan Shewbridge

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

1 Samuel 15:1-35

Other passages:

Connect: Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

- 1) Saul obeyed God in some areas but chose to ignore God's instructions in others. Why do you think it's tempting to obey God only when it fits our preferences? Are there areas where we can be tempted to practice selective obedience?
- 2) When Samuel confronted Saul, Saul initially defended his actions and blamed others rather than taking responsibility. When God reveals sin in our lives, what are some ways we tend to justify our actions instead of genuinely repenting?
- 3) In 1 Samuel 15:22, Samuel says, "To obey is better than sacrifice." How can we become so focused on church attendance, serving, giving, or other religious activities that we neglect personal obedience to God?
- 4) Saul admitted that he disobeyed because he feared the people and listened to their voices. When have you found it difficult to follow God's Word because you were concerned about what others might think? How can we grow in valuing God's approval above people's approval?
- 5) The sermon challenged us to consider whether we are truly surrendering to God's authority or asking Him to approve the version of obedience we've chosen. Is there an area of your life where God may be calling you to trust Him and take a step of obedience? What would that step look like this week?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **Partial obedience is still disobedience** - God calls us to trust His Word rather than selectively obeying only the parts that are comfortable or convenient.
2. **Religious activity cannot replace genuine repentance** - Attending church, serving, and giving are valuable, but they cannot substitute for acknowledging our sin, turning away from it, and returning to God.
3. **Repentance requires taking responsibility** - Instead of making excuses, shifting blame, or defending our actions, we must agree with God about our sin and respond with humility.
4. **God's approval matters more than people's approval** - Fear of rejection, conflict, or criticism can lead us to compromise our convictions. We must prioritize faithfulness to God while speaking truth in love.
5. **God desires a heart of full surrender** - The goal is not simply to look faithful on the outside but to live in genuine obedience to God, including in the areas of our lives that others may never see.