Session 07 | **KEY TEXT**: 1 Samuel 13:1-14

SAUL'S FAILURE

CENTRAL TRUTH

King Saul's promising start quickly fizzled when he was faced with his first big test: would he follow God when times got hard? Saul was faced with a decision to obey God or go with his gut, and he chose incorrectly. He quickly learned that **anything less than full obedience is disobedience.**

KEY QUESTION

↔ **Why do you think Samuel responded to Saul in such a strong way?**

Samuel had an understanding of God's holiness: offering a sacrifice was not to be done flippantly and on one's own terms. So he rebuked Saul for doing this. That's a biblical term that means to correct or point in the right direction. Samuel told Saul the truth: he'd been foolish, disobedient, and had severed his relationship with God. Saul may have minimized his actions, but Samuel made him face them.

KEEP IN MIND

- In the Old Testament, God established a system of sacrifices and offerings for His people. Using the Theology Note in this week's session, help students to understand why this system was created. However, we don't need to offer sacrifices and offerings anymore. Jesus is the once-and-for-all sacrifice who creates a way to have a relationship with God.
- "Rebuke" is a word we don't often hear or use today. But it's a word that means to correct or point in the right direction. Like some medical procedures, while it may not feel good, correction is good for us. Help students to identify people who are in their lives whom they can trust to graciously correct them.

APPLICATION

- **In what areas of your life have worry or anxiety caused you to sin against the Lord? How do we choose to wait on God and trust Him even in the hardest times?**

THE WIN

FOR THE STUDENT: Oftentimes we're tempted to obey God partially or on our own terms. However, anything less than full obedience to the Lord is disobedience.

FOR THE LEADER: Encourage students to reflect on any areas that they may not be fully obeying the Lord. Challenge them to prayerfully consider what's stopping them, bring it to the Lord, and obey Him.

7 ARROWS

- What does this passage say?
- What does this passage tell us about God?
- What did this passage mean to its original audience?
- How does this passage change the way I relate to people?
- What does this passage tell us about the human heart?
- How does this passage prompt me to pray?
- What does this passage demand of me?