

men of Israel (strokes) gathered in a valley (outline hills around) near a city (square) belonging to the Amalekites. These people (strokes) were enemies to God and to the children of Israel, and God had told Saul to go out with his men and destroy every one of these people for their wickedness. God also told Saul not to keep any of their good things, cattle, oxen, sheep, lambs—all were to be destroyed. Saul disobeyed God. He picked out all the best oxen, sheep, lambs, etc., and kept them for his own use, and also kept Agag, the king, alive, so that he might have the glory of bringing home a royal prisoner; all of which displeased God.

GOD AND SAMUEL—They are talking about Saul. God tells Samuel how displeased He is with Saul. Samuel likes Saul, and is grieved that God is turned against him. Samuel spent all night asking God, if possible, to please let Saul still be king.

SAMUEL AND SAUL—These two are together again. Saul says, "I have obeyed the Lord, I have destroyed the Amalekites." Samuel says, "Listen! what is that I hear, the bleating of sheep! the lowing of oxen! Where did they come from?" "Oh," said Saul, "the people spared the best of those belonging to the Amalekites to offer in sacrifice to God." Then Samuel told Saul just what God thought

of him, vs. 17-23. "He hath also rejected thee from being king." It was no excuse for Saul's disobedience, that he intended to offer the sheep and oxen as a sacrifice to God. Nothing can make up in God's sight for lack of obedience.

Golden Text—Explain that God does not want outward service, if at the same time there is not true worship in the heart and obedience to His commands. If John goes to church or Sunday School, and during the week is quarrelsome, untruthful, dishonest, or greedy, God is not pleased with his acts of worship. "Going to church," "saying our prayers," etc., will not please God, unless we have a true heart full of worship and obedience.

Blackboard—Outline an altar with smoke ascending. Print **OUTWARD SERVICE**, also a heart, with **TRUE SERVICE**. Underneath print the Golden Text.

Whisper Sentence—God loves true service.

Hymn—

Though small is all that we can do
To please the King of heaven;
When hearts and hands and lips unite
To serve the Saviour with delight,
They are most precious in His sight:
Such grace to mine be given. Amen.

—Hymn No. 532, Book of Praise

BLACKBOARD REVIEW

SAUL REBELLIOUS REJECTED

Ask the scholars to imagine a tall and sturdy oak. They will readily be able to tell that the oak has grown from a tiny acorn. The acorn is the cause of the oak. Now turn to the sad picture of to-day's lesson—**SAUL REJECTED**. There was a cause for Saul's rejection, as there is for the oak. This was his rebellion against God. There would have been no "SAUL REJECTED" if there had been no **SAUL REBELLIOUS**. He was not always rebellious. Once he was humble and ready to obey God. But little by little just as the oak grows larger and larger, he allowed himself to disobey God and do his own will, until, at last, he wanted his own way in everything. Then he was rejected. If we would avoid being rejected of God we must not be rebellious. And the surest way not to become rebellious is never to disobey God even in the smallest things.