

ACTS2COMMUNITY

STUDY QUESTIONS—Leader's Guide

June 28, 2009

Scripture Reading: I Samuel 10:8; 13:1-15
Key Verse: 13:12-13

Leaders: When Samuel gave the command to Saul to wait to make the offering, the people understood Samuel's words as though they were the words of the Lord. There was no question about the authority of the prophet.

BIG IDEA: Sin happens when we fail to pursue God.

Getting Started

When a supervisor gives you instructions, and is not there to watch you, how well do you follow through?

How well do you follow the instructions? Do you adhere to what your supervisor said? Do you find an alternate way to complete the task?

Digging Deeper

Read I Samuel 10:8. God has given Saul specific instructions through the prophet Samuel. What has Saul been asked to do?

God (through Samuel) has given very specific instructions. Go down ahead of me. I will come down to you to sacrifice offerings. Wait seven days until I come to you.

Read Samuel 13:1-15. According to this passage, do you believe it was easy for Saul to “go” and “wait”? Why or why not?

Reflect on your own life. How do you react when a situation turns “critical” and you feel “hard-pressed”?

During those times, are you able to seek God and serve Him faithfully?

How did Saul react to his critical situation (v.9-12)?

He panicked and chose not to seek the Lord. He didn't wait to offer the sacrifice.

Read James 4:17. According to this passage, what is sin?

To know the good you ought to do, and not do it.

How did Saul sin?

He knew the command of the Lord from Samuel, and yet acted foolishly. He chose not to do what he had been commanded to do.

Application

We often think we are free from sin or living rightly, because we aren't killing, lying, committing adultery, stealing, etc. God's word says otherwise. Sin happens when we fail to pursue God.

Do you seek God in every area of your life, or do you act independently of Him?

God gives us a new inner life when we choose to follow Him. However, it is up to us as believers to faithfully pursue Him in all we do.

CHALLENGE

What is a specific situation in your life where you are guilty of the sin of inaction? (Refer back to I Samuel 13:13).

Leaders, you may need to be the first person to answer this question.

What is one active thing you can do to pursue God within your situation? Be specific!

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Leaders, if a member mentions something generic, "pray more", encourage them to be specific about what they will pray for. Use this opportunity to hold each other accountable within your group.