

EVENT 1

King: What should I do? The Philistines are attacking! The people are running scared! They are hiding in caves, in the woods, in rocks, in holes, even in pits! Some have even left the land and crossed the Jordan River. We must offer a sacrifice to the Lord to receive his protection.

Listen. Do you hear that? It is the armor of the Philistines. And night is coming! What is your advice to me?

Advisor 1: Samuel, our prophet and priest, is not here. We must wait for him to offer the sacrifice. That is the only way we can receive help from God!

Advisor 2: We can't wait any longer. We will all be destroyed. Make the sacrifice. Surely God will honor it! You are the king!

The king must decide the path he is going to take.

EVENT 2

Joshua: I don't know what to do! We must take the city of Jericho. It is well protected. The people are armed and powerful. There is no way through the city's thick walls and protection. How will we win this battle?

Advisor 1: We must attack at night with all our men and all our force. It is the only way we will have a chance. Even though many will die, I see no other way to win the city and take it for the Lord!

Advisor 2: Wait! We must obey God! We must march around the city for six days—without making a sound. And on the seventh day, march around seven times. The Ark of the Lord will go before us. And when the trumpet blasts the last day, the people will shout and the walls will fall. Jericho will be ours.

Joshua must decide the path he is going to take.

EVENT 3

King: What shall I do? We have victory over the Amalekites! And yet all these riches are here. And the King begged me to spare his life. Surely God will honor my victory and will rejoice. I will return with the king and the best of all the sheep, oxen, the lambs, and all that is good from the land.

Advisor 1: In our victory we have proven God as a strong God. The victory is ours. We will return with the king and the good things from the land as proof that we are the people of God!

Advisor 2: Hasn't God insisted that we utterly destroy the city, all that they have, and everyone there? God commanded that we not spare anyone! We have the victory but we must come back empty-handed. That is what the Lord commanded.

The king must decide the path he is going to take.

Print and cut out three copies of each event. One copy for each role—the king and his two advisors.

The Leader's Troubles Teacher's Copy

Assign three students for each of the three events listed. Give each of the actors the appropriate event. The students will role-play the events as presented. The king will announce his trouble to his advisors. The advisors will each present a solution to the trouble. The king will decide what he must do.

The king's people (the rest of the class) will respond with cheering if they agree with the leader's decision and thumbs down if they disagree with the leader's decision. Note the Teacher's Comments below will help re-direct the students back to the lesson and what happened.

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TEACHER: We heard today that Saul did not wait for Samuel. He did not obey God and he paid the consequence by having the kingdom taken from him. The Lord would seek another king.

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Joshua must decide the path he is going to take.

TEACHER: We studied this account several weeks ago. We learned that Joshua obeyed the Lord even though the Lord's commands seemed a bit odd. The Lord gave Joshua victory over the city of Jericho!

EVENT 3

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TEACHER: King Saul disobeyed God. He spared King Agag's life and did not destroy everything in the city. The Lord took the kingdom from him. The Lord's Spirit left him and Saul was troubled and distressed the rest of his life.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God often asked the people of Israel to do things that did not make sense, didn't He? The three scenes we just witnessed show us that.

In Event 1, King Saul should have waited for Samuel, like God commanded. Instead, he took matters into his own hands, made the sacrifice without Samuel, and lost his kingdom.

In Event 2, about Joshua and the battle of Jericho, the more logical approach by the world's standards would be to agree with Advisor 1 and attack at night under the cover of dark. But Joshua obeyed God even though it seemed a bit odd to march around the city in broad daylight and in full view. Because Joshua obeyed, the city was taken by God's power!

In Event 3, God told King Saul to destroy everything. King Saul wanted to do what HE thought was best. Not what God had commanded. And again, he disobeyed. God judged him for his disobedience.

Often the things God asks us to do don't seem to make sense. But He is God and we must trust that what He asks us to do is what He wants us to do. If He asks us or leads us to something, He will show us how to do it. God always demands that HIS commands be obeyed—even today!