

## KING SAUL

### A. WHO WAS SAUL?

- He was not a man of mighty character.
- He became the first King of Israel.
- He was handsome and tall.

*...Saul was the most handsome man in Israel—head and shoulders taller than anyone else in the land.  
(1 Samuel 9:2)*

### B. WHAT WAS SAUL'S REALLY BAD EXAMPLE?

1. **Saul treated God's \_\_\_\_\_ as if they were \_\_\_\_\_.**  
*Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them... (1 Samuel 15:3)*

*But Saul and the army spared Agag [King of the Amalekites] and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed. (1 Samuel 15:9)*

2. **Saul tried to \_\_\_\_\_ for his shortcomings.**  
*Saul answered, "The soldiers brought them from the Amalekites; they spared the best of the sheep and cattle to sacrifice to the Lord your God, but we totally destroyed the rest."  
(1 Samuel 15:15)*
3. **Saul \_\_\_\_\_ instead of God.**  
*Saul gave in and confessed, "I've sinned. I've trampled roughshod over God's Word and your instructions. I cared more about pleasing the people." (1 Samuel 15:24 MSG)*

### C. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM SAUL'S REALLY BAD EXAMPLE?

1. **Following Christ means \_\_\_\_\_ God's commands.**  
*If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15)*
2. **Following Christ means \_\_\_\_\_ our failures.**  
*Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. (1 Peter 5:6)*
3. **Following Christ means \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd.**  
*Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. (Romans 12:2 MSG)*

**BIG IDEA:**

**YOUR DEEPEST CHARACTER FLAWS DON'T HAVE TO \_\_\_\_\_,  
BUT YOU CAN ALLOW THEM TO \_\_\_\_\_.**

**FAMILY MATTERS**

**Sympathy** is extended to Dan & Julie Walker and family on the recent passing of Dan's father, Ken Walker.

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Share a story about when you gave into peer pressure.
2. Share a time where you've justified treating God's commands as suggestions. Why did you do so?
3. How do you own your failures?
4. When you think of the 'Big Idea', what does the refining process look and feel like for you?
5. What type of people could walk alongside you when you're struggling with people-pleasing rather than pleasing God?

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