

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON
SEPTEMBER `13, 2020
HEART CHECK

This week in our Bible lesson we will discover the high value God places on whole-hearted obedience. To help us learn about the idea of obeying and levels of obedience we are going to ask for some help from a P.I. Do you know what a P.I. is?

P.I. stands for private investigator which is a type of detective. Our P.I. is I. C. Moore. I.C. has been observing some kid's actions to learn about obedience. But he needs our help! I am going to describe to you what I.C. saw and I want you to write down why the kids acted the way they did. Here is the first scene.

Mrs. Gleason had a huge load of books to carry. Anna had just received a very bad grade on a paper she handed in. So when Anna saw Mrs. Gleason she volunteered to help her. Why do you think Anna might have done that?

Dad told Chad to clean his room before he could go play football. So Chad put all of the things that were in his room under the bed. Then he straightened the blankets on his bed. What do you think Chad's dad is going to say when he comes to check on how Chad cleaned his room?

What were the reasons these kids had for helping and obeying? _____

Would you say that these kids were obeying with their whole heart? Why? _____

Can you think of a time when you obeyed for the wrong reason or only did the job halfway? _____

Sometimes we obey, but we really only obey halfway. Obedience is not just simply doing the right thing. True obedience is doing the right thing wholeheartedly. We have a long Bible story this week. We are going to learn about someone who obeyed God halfway. Last week we learned about Saul who was Israel's first king. In the beginning of his reign he followed God's ways. When Saul had led Israel for about 20 years, God told him to attack the Amalekites. God gave specific instructions that Saul and his men were to destroy them completely.

Read 1 Samuel 15:1-9.

In what ways did Saul obey God?

In what ways did Saul not obey God?

Read 1 Samuel 15: 10-12.

What was God's response to what Saul did?

Read 1 Samuel 15:22 and Psalm 119:34.

What do you think Samuel was trying to tell Saul?

Read 1 Samuel 15:24.

What reasons did Saul give for his actions?

Why do you think Saul added his own ideas to what God had told him to do?

Read 1 Samuel 15:3.

Why weren't Saul's excuses good enough?

Because of what Saul did, God rejected him as king. Saul told Samuel he had sinned because he was afraid of his people. When Samuel turned to leave, Saul grabbed his robe and tore it. Samuel used this as a lesson. He told Saul that God would tear the kingdom of Israel from Saul and give it to someone who would obey God wholeheartedly. Later, God told Samuel to go to Bethlehem to find and anoint the next king.

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7.

What was Samuel looking for in a king?

What was the Lord looking for?

God had Samuel anoint Jesse's youngest son, David, as the next king of Israel. God knew that David would obey him wholeheartedly.

Think about the different ways that Saul and Samuel obeyed God. Why is it important to obey God with all your heart?

In our Bible story we learned the God requires wholehearted obedience to Him. This week I would like you to practice obedient responses to your parents. What are some of the responsibilities you have at home? What excuse do you give for doing the job half-way? How can you obey God wholeheartedly when your parents tell you to do something?

When Samuel was choosing a new king to replace Saul, God told Samuel that he was most concerned with the person's heart. Just as he did then, God still wants people to obey him with their whole heart. Here are some descriptions of different heart conditions. Only one of these is in good attitude condition. It beats strong and steady. It helps its owner to wholeheartedly obey God. Check out the "attitude" condition of your heart.

Half-hearted – Half of you wants to obey God. The other half wants your own way. Heart rate 1.5

Stony-hearted – You don't really want to obey God. You think it is too hard. Heart rate 0

Heavy-hearted – You obey God because you have to. Your heart really isn't in it though. Heart rate 1.0

Broken-hearted – You've disobeyed God but you are sorry. From now on you want to obey him. Heart rate 2.0

Whole-hearted – You want to obey God with all your heart. You want to obey because you love Him. Heart rate 3.0

Now I would like you to take a "stress" test. Read each of the above description of a heart condition. Decide which one best describes your attitude about each of the following categories on this stress test. Fill in your heart rate on each line then total them all up.

Obeying parents _____

Being kind _____

Telling the truth _____

Respecting others _____

Honoring the Lord's Day _____

Sharing possessions with others _____

Using clean language _____

Talking about Jesus _____

Total score _____

If you scored 18 or more points, you have a healthy heart.

If your score is lower than 18, look up these verses to have a strong healthy heard that obeys God.

1 John 5:3 Psalm 51:17
Psalm 86:11 Ezekiel 11:19
Psalm 119:34

Let's close this week with a prayer. Heavenly Father, please help us as we strive to obey you with all our heart. Remind us to read your scriptures to keep our hearts strong. Keep us safe as we go through this week. In Jesus name. Amen.