

Lesson 1: Disobedience

Today's Bible Story

King Saul was afraid of the Philistine army; he didn't know what to do. The prophet Samuel had died, and there was no one to advise him. So Saul told his officers, "Find me a woman who can talk to the spirits of the dead. I'll go to her and find out what's going to happen." His servants told him, "There's a medium at Endor who can talk to spirits of the dead."

Saul knew what he was doing was wrong. So he put on different clothing so nobody would recognize him. He went to the woman, and asked, "Will you bring up the ghost of someone I ask for?" The woman refused saying, "You know such things are against the law!"

Saul replied, "I swear by the living LORD that nothing will happen to you because of this."

"Fine then," the woman said. "Who do you want me to bring up?" the woman asked. "Bring up the ghost of Samuel the prophet," he answered.

When the woman saw the ghost of Samuel, she screamed. "Don't be afraid," Saul replied. "Just tell me what you see." She answered, "I see a spirit rising up out of the ground. He looks like an old man wearing a robe."

Saul knew it was Samuel, so he bowed down low. But the spirit of Samuel was angry. "Why are you bothering me by bringing me up like this?"

"I'm terribly worried," Saul answered. "The Philistines are about to attack me. God has turned his back on me and won't answer any more by prophets or by dreams. What should I do?"

Samuel said: "No wonder God has turned against you and taken away your kingdom. You disobey him at every turn! I tell you, God has had enough. So here is what will happen: Tomorrow the LORD will let the Philistines defeat Israel's army, then you and your sons will join me down here in the place of the dead!"



From 1 Samuel 28:3-19

Bible Rhyme

Saul was worried and afraid.

One last big mistake he made.
He found a witch to call the dead,
and she agreed to what he said.

"Call up Samuel for me.
Tell me what it is you see."
"It's a ghost," the woman said,
"like an old man roused from bed."

But Samuel's ghost, he did not jest.
"Why have you disturbed my rest?
"Because you disobey the Lord,
you shall surely face the sword!"

**Where do you turn when you have questions and doubts?
God wants us to go to him!**

Many people in our modern day make the same mistake that King Saul made in ancient days. They look for “magical” and “mystical” help with their questions and problems. Read what the Bible says about this in the scroll to the right.

Cross out the things pictured below that God would NOT want us to use for advice. Circle what God WOULD like us to listen to instead.

Soon you will go into the land that the LORD your God is giving you. The nations that live there do things that are disgusting to the LORD, and you must not follow their example. Don't sacrifice your son or daughter.

And don't try to use any kind of magic or witchcraft to tell fortunes or to cast spells or to talk with spirits of the dead. The LORD is disgusted with anyone who does these things....”

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 CEV



Discussion Questions:

- 1) Was Samuel happy that Saul tried to contact him after he was dead? What did he say to Saul?
- 2) Why does God NOT want us to try to contact or pray to the dead? How does this dishonor God?
- 3) Good and evil forces are real. Is doing something okay just because we think it “works”?
- 4) How could evil spirits use this kind of stuff against us?

Look up John 6:68 and fill in the missing words from this verse:

“Lord, to _____ shall _____ go? _____ have the _____ of _____ life!”