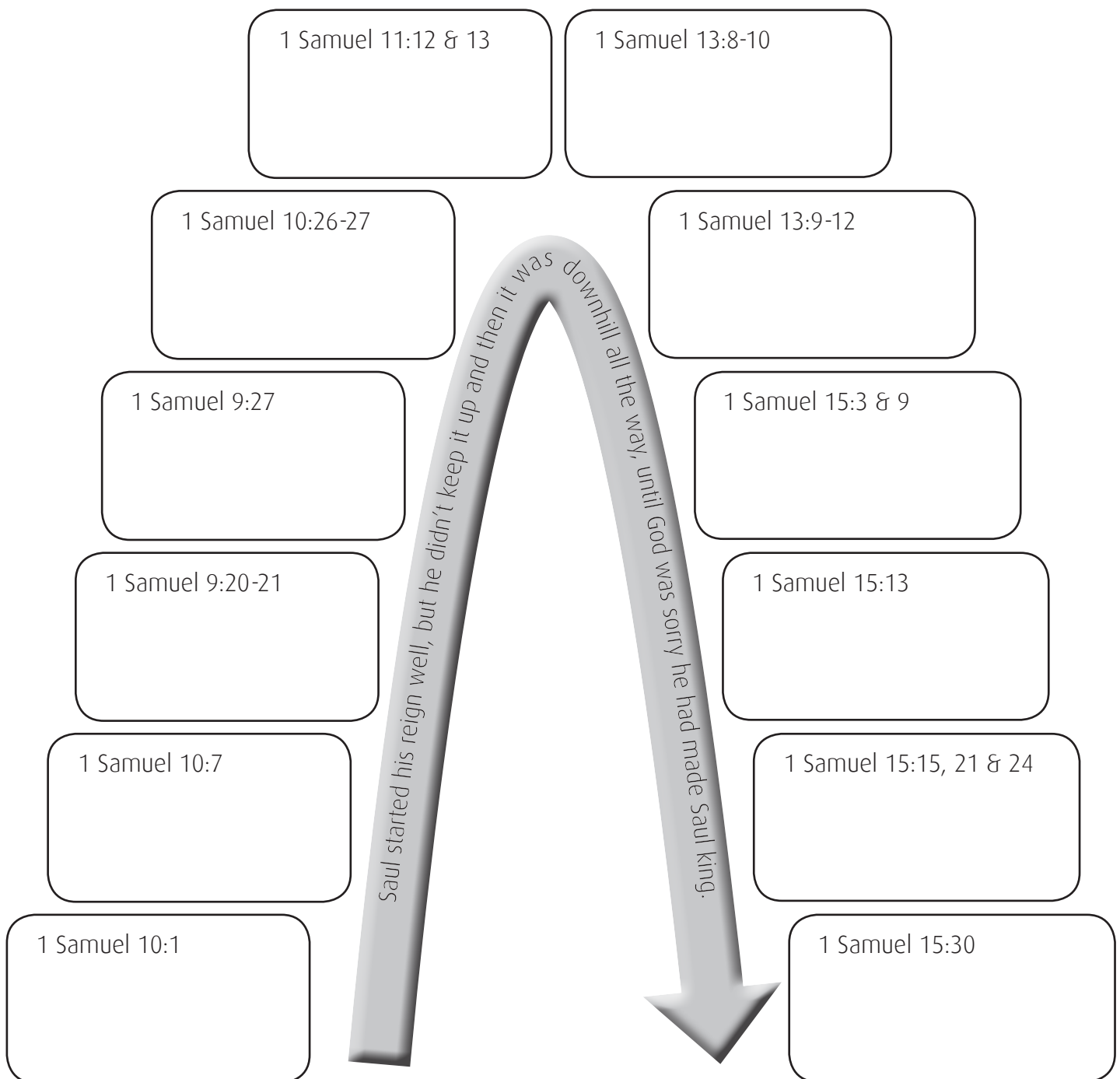


1 Samuel 9 -15

Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obedience to the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice. 1 Samuel 15:22

Saul was the first king of Israel. How would you behave if you were in his place, at the beginning of your reign? What would your aims be? Discuss your ideas together.

Saul made a good start to his reign. The references in these boxes show how he was travelling in the right direction. In each box, write 2 words which describe Saul's attitude or what influenced him. Start at the bottom, at the beginning of his reign.



Look again at the incidents on the downhill side of the last page. For each of the passages, discuss what Saul should have done, and make some short notes. If you can, use examples from things you have experienced.

1 Samuel 13:8-10

1 Samuel 13:9-12

1 Samuel 15:3 & 9

1 Samuel 15:13

1 Samuel 15:15, 21 & 24

1 Samuel 15:30

## Make a drama out of a crisis

In pairs or small groups, choose one or two incidents you've just looked at. Try to think of ways that you might be presented with similar dilemmas today, in your life. Work together to produce a very short sketch of what might happen, and how you would respond to it. You will find this easier to do if you focus on Saul's feelings and motivation at each point.

## What does God want?

Look very carefully at 1 Samuel 15:22. What message does this verse have for you about the way you need to live your life?

## Digging Deeper

### The witch

At the end of Saul's life God had left him and he seems to have lost all his friends.

Read 1 Samuel 28:3-25 to see what he did when the Philistines again came against the Israelites in battle. Why had Saul got rid of the witches and mediums? Leviticus 20:6,27.

To find out what happened at the battle, read 1 Samuel 31.

What should we learn about fortune telling? ouija boards? tarot cards? horoscopes? astrologers?

How do you decide what the right thing to do is in your life? A good idea is to ask yourself:

## What Would Jesus Do?

Imagine what Jesus would do in your situation. Imagine what Jesus would say if he saw you doing the thing. Would he approve?

You might like to make yourself a What Would Jesus do bookmark or bracelet to wear and remind yourself.

## Readings this week:

S	1 Samuel 9
M	1 Samuel 10
T	1 Samuel 11
W	1 Samuel 28
Th	1 Samuel 31
F	1 Chronicles 10
S	Proverbs 3

Thank God that he has given you his word so that you can learn how to live your life his way.