

Lesson 62

God Judges Rebellion

God punished the people for rebelling and complaining.

Studying God's Word

Introduction

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them. [Lesson Theme Poster](#)

Slide #3

Refer to [Lesson 61 Theme Poster](#). God told Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan. These men spied for 40 days. They brought back fruit and told the Israelites that the land was very good!

But there were some problems that scared 10 of the spies. What were the problems? There were giants in the land. The cities had walls around them.

Which spies trusted God to help them win the land? Joshua and Caleb.

Yes. They reminded the people to trust God and not to be afraid. But the people didn't listen. They refused to go into the good land God had promised them.

The Israelites rebelled against the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all those people who didn't believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the people under age 20 would enter the land later. This wasn't the first time they rebelled against God, and it wouldn't be the last, as we'll see in our lesson today.

Slide #4

So, what does it mean "to rebel"? Allow answers.

Rebel: to purposely disobey authority

To rebel is to disobey someone in authority on purpose. For example, let's say your parents were going out for the evening and left a babysitter in charge. That babysitter is supposed to watch over you and report to your parents when they return. What if while your parents are away, you decide that you should be in charge instead of the babysitter? So, you refuse to obey the babysitter and say, "You're not my mom (or dad); you can't tell me what to do."

Who are you really rebelling against—the babysitter or your parents who gave the babysitter authority over you? Your parents.

That's right. What kind of consequences would there be for your rebellion? Allow answers.

A similar thing happened with Moses and the Israelites. Whenever the Israelites disobeyed or complained to Moses, they were really rebelling against God since he's the one who chose Moses to lead. God was guiding his people, and he knew they had to learn to obey him and the leaders he put in charge or they would suffer the consequences of their sin and never survive as a nation.

Korah's Rebellion

After the Israelites rebelled and refused to enter the promised land, all those age 20 and older knew that they would have to wander in the wilderness until they died. This made some of them upset. Then three men—Korah, Dathan, and Abiram—decided to stir up trouble.

They gathered 250 men and went to see Moses and Aaron. They accused Moses and Aaron of making themselves more important than the other Israelites. But this wasn't true.

Did Moses and Aaron make themselves leaders? Who gave them the jobs of leading the people? God.

Remember? God called Moses at the burning bush and chose him to lead the Israelites. Moses didn't even want to at first! But he obeyed God. Then God chose Aaron and his sons to serve as priests. This made others jealous. Moses knew these men were really rebelling against God!

Numbers 16:6–7

Slide #5

Let's read what Moses told Korah and the others to do. Turn to Numbers 16. Who will read verses 6–7 for us? Assign readers.

These men were jealous of Moses and Aaron. They wanted to be priests, too. So Moses told them to come back the next day with censers to offer incense like the chosen priests did. He said God would show them who should be the real priests.

Numbers 16:12–14

Slide #6

Slide #7

Then Moses called for Dathan and Abiram to come talk to him. Let's see what they said. Who will read Numbers 16:12–14? Assign a reader.

Did Dathan and Abiram obey and come talk to Moses? No.

What were they angry about? What did they say Moses had done? Made himself a prince over them, tried to kill them in the wilderness, and did not take them into the promised land.

Were any of their complaints true? No.

The things they said were totally wrong! Moses didn't make himself a ruler, God did. And Moses never tried to kill them. In fact, we've read about how he had prayed for them—many times—so God would not destroy them because of their sins!

And whose fault was it for the Israelites not entering the promised land? The people's fault.

Right! They were too scared and refused to go in! These lies made Moses very angry, and he asked God not to respect their offering the next day.

Slide #8

Pass out the Class Notes to the students.

Let's start the Class Notes crossword puzzle. You'll find the answer in the word bank and then write it in the puzzle. Who will answer #1? What were these men leading the people to do? It's a new word we just talked about. Choose a reader. Rebel. Have students complete #1.

In #2, what did the 250 men want to be? Choose a reader. Priests. Have students complete #2.

God's Judgment

The next day, a big crowd gathered; they wanted to see what would happen to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. The 250 men who wanted to be priests also came to burn sweet spices to God.

Note: if you have a small class, have one student represent the three rebels (label "Rebel"), one represent the 250 men (label "250"), one for Moses and one for Aaron, and let the remaining students be the other Israelites.

Prepare for the reenactment by writing the characters' names on the name tags/labels ahead of time. Have cups and a tablecloth/sheet ready.

Let's act out what happened. I need three volunteers to be Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Choose three students to come up front. Give them name tags with their characters' names written on them.

Now I need two people to be Moses and Aaron. Choose two students and give them character name tags. Have them stand opposite the three rebels with some distance between them. Give Aaron a cup "censer."

Next, I need several students to be the 250 men who are offering incense in their censers. Remember that incense was sweet-smelling spices. Those would have been placed over hot coals in the censers to give off a sweet smell. Choose several students to be the leaders and give them cups as censers.

Everyone else stand up and go behind the three rebels. You'll be the Israelites who came to see what would happen.

Listen and be ready to follow directions or repeat a line when I tell you. Let's begin!

Korah said, "You've gone too far, Moses!" Instruct Korah to repeat line and shake his fist at Moses and Aaron.

The glory of the Lord appeared, and God spoke to Moses saying, "Move away from the people that I may destroy them!"

Moses and Aaron fell down on their faces. Have Moses and Aaron fall down as though praying.

Moses prayed, "O God, please don't punish all the people for the sin of a few men!"

God answered, "Tell the people to get away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

Moses went to the people and warned them, "Hurry! Move away from the tents of these wicked men, and don't touch anything of theirs. Otherwise, you will be punished along with them!" Have Moses walk over to the Israelites and wave arms to disperse them.

The Israelites moved back from the three men. Have students take several steps back from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Moses said, "If these men die a normal death, then that means God has not sent me to lead you. But if the Lord does something new and the ground opens up and swallows them and all their belongings, then you will know that these men have rebelled against the Lord."

As soon as Moses said this, the ground under the three men split apart! Rebels, look frightened and yell, "It's an earthquake!" Have rebels repeat.

Then the earth opened and swallowed up all three men, their tents, and their families! Rebels, yell "No!" and fall to the ground! Have rebels act this out.

So those men fell alive into the ground, and the earth closed back up over them. Throw the tablecloth or sheet over the three rebels to represent the ground covering them.

The Israelites thought that the earth would swallow them up, too! They were terrified and fled! Israelites, run around the room once and then return here. Wait for them to run and return. The rebels may return to their seats.

Then fire came from the Lord and burned the 250 men who were offering the incense! 250 men, pretend to be on fire and then run to your seats. Have them act this out and then return to their seats. Keep Moses and Aaron up front with the Israelites.

God took the rebellion of these men seriously, didn't he? He knew that they were challenging his authority when they complained against Moses and Aaron. The 250 were punished because they didn't accept the jobs God gave them to lead in their families and tribes. They wanted more. They wanted to be priests, but God had given that job to Aaron and his sons. Have students return to their seats.

Once again, we see that rebelling is sin that brings consequences. Let's go back to our Class Notes.

Slide #9

Slide #10

Look at #3. What did God tell Moses to do? Choose a reader. Warn. Have students complete #3.

In #4, what did God do to punish the rebels? Choose a reader. Earth. Have students complete #4.

And #5, what happened to the 250 men who wanted to be priests? Choose a reader. Fire. Have students complete #5.

The Bronze Serpent

After Korah's rebellion, the Israelites continued their travels in the wilderness. When they reached a place where there was no water, once again, they complained about being thirsty and having no food to eat.

But God said he would provide water again from a rock. He told Moses and Aaron to gather the people and speak to the rock, and he would cause water to come out of it. This time, though, Moses and Aaron did not obey God's instructions. Moses struck the rock with his staff twice instead of speaking to it as he had been told. Then he and Aaron took credit for doing the miracle!

Do you think God was pleased with Moses? No!

God was angry with Moses and Aaron for disobeying, and he said that they would not enter the promised land either. That was terrible news! Moses and Aaron had been faithful, but their disobedience had consequences just like when the Israelites disobeyed.

As they continued to travel through the wilderness, the Israelites got impatient again. They gathered against God and Moses and complained about the food and water. They even said they hated the manna God provided for them and called it worthless!

This was not a good thing! What usually happened when the people sinned by complaining and saying things against God? They were punished. How many of you think there would be consequences for their sin this time? Show of hands.

Numbers 21:5–6

Slide #11

Let's see if you're right. Who will read Numbers 21:5–6 for us? Assign readers.

What punishment did God send among the people? Fiery serpents.

What happened if the people were bitten by the serpents? They died.

So, you may think they complained again about the snakes. But this time the people realized that they had sinned, and they asked Moses to pray for them.

Numbers 21:8–9

Slide #12

Then God told Moses to do something a bit unusual. Let's read about it in Numbers 21:8–9. Assign readers.

What did God tell Moses to make? A bronze serpent on a pole.

What happened to the people who were bitten when they looked at the bronze serpent? They lived. They didn't die.

Remember, God is holy and just to punish the people for their sin. But God showed mercy by telling Moses to make a bronze serpent and set it up on

a pole where everyone could see it. Those who were bitten could look up at the serpent and be saved from the punishment of the snakes. Does that mean the bronze serpent statue had magical powers to heal them? No.

God was the one who healed them, but they had to look for help and healing. This may seem like a strange way to show mercy, but God was giving a picture of something to come.

How many of you know John 3:16? Have students raise their hands or quote the verse together.

Did you know that the verses before John 3:16 talk about the bronze serpent? John 3 verses 14 and 15 say that Jesus would be lifted up just like Moses lifted up the serpent.

What was Jesus "lifted up," or crucified, on? A cross.

Right. The bronze serpent on a pole was a picture of Jesus on the cross. Just as the bronze serpent saved people from dying when they were bitten, Jesus saves us from eternal death and being separated from God. Jesus' death on the cross was the greatest act of mercy shown to us. Like the Israelites, we deserve punishment for our sins. But thanks to the love and mercy of God, we can believe in Jesus, turn from our sin, and receive forgiveness. God gave a great picture of the coming Savior to his people in the wilderness!

Slide #13

Let's finish our Class Notes. Who will read #6 and tell us what punishment God sent for the people's complaining? Choose a reader. Serpents. Have students complete #6.

And #7, the bronze serpent Moses set up was a picture of something. Who will read that? Choose a reader. Jesus. Have students complete #7.

Application

Slide #14

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The three men who rebelled against God and Moses received punishment from God. The earth opened up, swallowed them and their families, and then closed over them. A lot of trouble came from a few men who didn't want to obey God or the leaders he put in charge.

Who are some people God has put in charge of you? Allow answers. Parents, teachers, babysitters, principals, police, government, etc.

The world teaches us that it's okay to rebel. They say it's the only way we can be who we're meant to be. Many movies show young people rebelling against their parents or other authorities so they can do their own thing and be free to be who they want to be. Then they often end up as heroes in the story.

Can you think of any movies or TV shows you've seen where this has happened? Allow discussion.

Is that what the Bible teaches? Allow discussion.

God knows who we are and what his plans are for every one of us. Rebelling against our parents is not part of his plan. Sometimes we may not feel like obeying the authorities God has placed over us. But he has commanded us to obey them unless they tell us to do something against God's laws. We should trust God's plan for our lives and look to him to show us how to be who he wants us to be instead of rebelling and going our own way.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

Review Questions

Three chairs set out for bases

Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Box Toss

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions
Medium-sized cardboard box
Scissors or knife
Four beanbags
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

Materials

Review Questions
One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)
Pencils or white board markers
One die

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.

To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

Materials

Review Questions

Masking tape

Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

Materials

- Review Questions
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

Materials

Review Questions
Small paper strips
Cup or basket

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions
A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and "wild" written on index cards

One beanbag
Masking tape
Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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