



## K-1<sup>st</sup> Lesson

### Review

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. 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 strong, tall people in the land (giants). The cities had walls around them.*

- Which two 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 to Joshua and Caleb. They would not go into the good land God promised to give them.

The Israelites disobeyed the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the older people who didn't believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would enter the land later.

- We might think the Israelites were so bad all the time. But wait. How many of you have ever disobeyed? *Show of hands.*

When we decide that we don't want to obey and choose instead to disobey because we want to do things our own way, we are doing something called "rebellious." It's kind of like we're doing the opposite of what we're told to do. I have some pictures to show you. See if you can tell me what the opposites are. *Show Opposites Pictures saying, "If I told you to (picture text) and you did the opposite, what would you do?"*

Sometimes we feel like we want to do the opposite of what we're told, but that would be rebellious. God doesn't want us to disobey and

rebel. You see, God has given us people to watch over us and lead us. They are our authorities, like parents or teachers or even babysitters. So we need to obey and respect them. When we don't, we're actually disobeying God and rebelling against him, too.

The Israelites acted the same way when they chose not to go into the land God had given to them. But this wasn't the first time they rebelled against God, and it wouldn't be the last time either. In our lesson today, we'll see how they rebelled against Moses, Aaron, and God again.

### Korah Rebels

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. After God said the older people could not go into the Promised Land, this made some of them very upset. It wasn't long before three men, who didn't like the way God was doing things, decided to stir up trouble. Their names were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

They gathered 250 men together and went to see Moses and Aaron. They said mean things about Moses and Aaron that were not true. These men were jealous. They wanted to be leaders like Moses and priests like Aaron.

### Numbers 16:11

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read what Moses said to them in the book of Numbers. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the first sentence of Numbers 16:11.

- Who were these men really coming against? *The Lord.*

- Is it a good thing to come against the Lord? *No!*

Since God chose Moses to lead the people and Aaron to be the high priest, these men were really rebelling against God when they came against the leaders God chose. It was like they were saying, "God, we don't like the men you've put in charge over us!"

- Is that a good thing to say to God? *No!*

These people were jealous, too. They didn't want to do the jobs God had already given them to do. They wanted the special jobs God had given to Moses and Aaron.

So Moses told them to come back the next day and offer sweet-smelling spices to God the way Aaron and the priests did. Then God would

show them all who he wanted to be his priests and leaders.

### God Punishes Sin

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. But God knew what was going on, and he was not pleased. He knew these people were rebelling. God spoke to Moses saying, "Move away from the people so I may destroy them!"

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

So God said, "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 so that you won't be punished along with them!" The Israelites moved back from the three men.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Suddenly, the ground under the three men began to tremble and split apart! The earth opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram! All three men, their tents, and their families fell into a huge crack in the earth, and the ground closed back up over them.

The other Israelites were terrified and ran away. They didn't want the earth to swallow them up, too! But that's not all. God also sent fire from heaven and burned up the 250 men who were offering the sweet spices! They were punished because they were trying to be priests, but God had given that job only to Aaron and his sons.

- Wow! God didn't like it when these men rebelled against him, did he? *No!*

### Moses Disobeys

As the Israelites continued to wander around in the wilderness, they reached a place where there was no water.

- Now who do you think could help them with this problem? *God.*

- Yes, God provided water for them before, didn't he? We talked about one time when God made water come out of a rock. Do you remember what God told Moses to do? *Strike the rock with his staff.*

So the people knew God could give them water. But instead of asking God for help, once again, they complained and grumbled to Moses about being thirsty. Moses knew he needed God's help and prayed about the problem. God said he would provide water again. Only this time, he told Moses and Aaron to gather the people around a rock and speak to it. Moses wasn't supposed to hit it with his staff like before.

### Numbers 20:10-11

Let's read what happened in Numbers chapter 20. Read verses 10-11.

- Who did Moses say would bring water out of the rock? *We. Moses and Aaron.*

- Is that true? Would Moses and Aaron bring the water? Or God? *God would.*

- Then what did Moses do to the rock? *Struck it twice.*

Oh no! This time, Moses and Aaron did NOT obey God's instructions. Moses struck the rock with his staff twice instead of speaking to it like God said to do. Moses disobeyed God. And he and Aaron even said they would give water instead of God.

- Do you think God was pleased with Moses and Aaron? *No!*

God was angry with Moses and Aaron for rebelling and doing it their way instead of following his directions. Remember how we've learned that God is holy and hates sin? God must punish sin. So God punished Moses and Aaron and said they would never get to go into the Promised Land. This was terrible news! They had been faithful and tried to please God, but their disobedience had to be punished just like the disobedience of the Israelites whenever they rebelled.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. We might think God sounds really mean when we read about these things in the Bible. But God isn't mean; he's holy and takes sin seriously. He must punish sin because of who he is. But God is also full of mercy and love. He showed how much he loves us when he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us so we could be forgiven of our sins. God loves us, but he also wants us to trust him and obey him and not rebel by doing things our own way.



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and others  
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**God  
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