



BASED ON NUMBERS 16

THE GROUND OPENS



A KORAH
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
FOR AGES 11-14

How to Use This Book

Welcome to an adventure where YOU step into the story of Korah's rebellion.

How it works:

- Start at Section 1
- Read each section carefully
- When you reach a choice, decide what YOU would do
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending.

Some paths lead to pride and destruction, some to humility and life.

Tips:

- You can read this alone or as a group (vote on choices together).
- Try different paths to see how the story changes.
- Pay attention to what happens when you choose jealousy vs. contentment, rebellion vs. submission.
- Keep a Bible open to Numbers 16 as you read.

Remember: Korah and 250 leaders challenged God's appointed authority—and the ground literally opened up beneath them.

Feeling Overlooked

Section 1

You are Korah, a Levite from the family of Kohath. Your job is to carry the holy things of the tabernacle—the ark, the table, the lampstand—but you're not allowed to actually serve as a priest. That honor belongs only to Aaron and his sons.

You watch Aaron and his sons offer incense, receive offerings, and stand close to God's presence. Meanwhile, you and your relatives just carry things and set up tents. It doesn't seem fair.

You're talented. You're from a good family. You're respected. People listen to you. Deep down, you start to think: Why should Aaron's family get all the glory? Aren't we ALL supposed to be a holy nation?

One day, you gather some friends—Dathan, Abiram, On, and 250 other well-known leaders. You start talking about how Moses and Aaron have "*gone too far*" by putting themselves above everyone else.

The more you talk, the angrier you get. It feels good to vent. People agree with you. The group grows.

What do you do?

- If you stop yourself, recognize the jealousy in your heart, and bring it to God instead of others, go to **Section 2**.
- If you decide to publicly confront Moses and Aaron with your complaints, go to **Section 3**.

Checking Your Heart

Section 2

You pause. The words forming in your mouth suddenly feel dangerous. You realize you're not really upset about "fairness"—you're upset that you don't have more power and recognition.

You step away from the growing crowd and pray honestly: *"God, I'm jealous. I want what Aaron has. I don't trust that You've put me where I am for a reason. Forgive me."*

It's hard. It's humbling. But as you confess, the anger drains away. You realize that carrying the holy things IS an honor. Being near God's presence—even in a "support role"—is a gift, not a curse.

You go back to your work with a quieter, more grateful heart. You never become famous, but you stay alive, faithful, and at peace.

END 1 – "Humility Before the Fall"

- You caught jealousy before it turned into rebellion, and God honored your honesty.

The Public Accusation

Section 3

You and your 250 followers march up to Moses and Aaron. Your voice is loud and confident: "*You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?*"

The crowd murmurs in agreement. You feel powerful. People are finally listening.

Moses falls facedown. When he stands, his face is sad, not angry. He says, "*In the morning the Lord will show who belongs to Him and who is holy.*"

He tells you and your followers to bring censers (incense burners) tomorrow and offer incense before the Lord. God will show who He has chosen.

That night, you have a choice.

What do you do?

- If you back down, apologize, and don't show up tomorrow, go to **Section 4**.
- If you show up with your censer, confident that God will vindicate you, go to **Section 5**.

Last-Minute Humility

Section 4

That night, you can't sleep. You keep replaying Moses' face—the sadness, not the anger. You remember stories of how God struck down Nadab and Abihu for offering unauthorized fire.

Fear grips your chest. What if I'm wrong?

Early in the morning, before anyone else wakes, you sneak to Moses' tent. You fall at his feet and say, *"I was wrong. I was jealous. Please forgive me. I won't come tomorrow."*

Moses looks at you with tears in his eyes. *"Go home, Korah. Stay away from the tents of those who will not repent."*

You go home. The next day, you watch from a distance as the earth opens and swallows Dathan, Abiram, and the others who refused to turn back.

You live, but you carry the weight of how close you came to destruction.

END 2 – "Saved by Fear of the Lord"

The Showdown at the Tabernacle

Section 5

You show up with your 250 followers. Each person has a censer filled with incense. You stand at the entrance of the Tabernacle, facing Moses and Aaron.

The glory of the Lord appears in a blazing cloud. Everyone gasps. God speaks to Moses and Aaron: *"Separate yourselves from this assembly so I can put an end to them at once."*

Moses and Aaron fall facedown and cry out, *"O God, will You be angry with the entire assembly when only one man sins?"*

God relents slightly. He tells Moses to warn the people to move away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

Moses turns to the crowd and shouts, *"Move away from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins!"*

Moses turns to the crowd and shouts, "*Move away from the tents of these wicked men! Do not touch anything belonging to them, or you will be swept away because of all their sins!*"

People start backing away. You feel the ground tremble slightly under your feet.

What do you do?

- If you run away from your own tent and join those backing up, go to **Section 6**.
- If you stand your ground, confident you're in the right, go to **Section 7**.

Running from Your Own Rebellion

Section 6

Panic breaks through your pride. You shove your censer at someone else and sprint away from your tent, away from Dathan and Abiram.

You join the crowd just as Moses says, *"If these men die a natural death, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord brings about something totally new, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them... then you will know that these men have treated the Lord with contempt."*

As Moses finishes speaking, the ground splits open with a terrible roar. The earth swallows Dathan, Abiram, their families, and everyone standing near their tents—but not you.

Then fire blazes out from the Lord and consumes the 250 men who were offering incense.

You collapse, shaking. You're alive, but barely. You started the rebellion, ran from it, and watched it consume others.

You live, but your name is forever linked to destruction.

END 3 – "The Leader Who Ran"

- You escaped death but not shame; you'll always be remembered as the man who started a rebellion and then abandoned his own followers.

Standing in Rebellion

Section 7

You plant your feet. *"I'm not wrong," you say out loud. "We ARE all holy. God IS with us. Moses is the one who's gone too far."*

Dathan and Abiram stand beside you at their tent entrances, shouting insults at Moses. *"We refuse to come! You brought us out of Egypt to kill us in the desert!"*

Moses finishes his warning. For a split second, there's silence.

Then the ground beneath your feet begins to shake. A crack opens. You try to jump, but the earth gives way faster than you can move.

You fall, screaming. The ground swallows you, your family, your tent, everything you own. You are buried alive, still clutching your censer.

Above, the earth closes back over you. Fire from the Lord consumes the 250 men who stayed at the Tabernacle entrance.

Your rebellion ends in the most terrifying judgment in Israel's history.

END 4 – "Swallowed by the Earth"

- You chose pride over repentance, and the ground literally opened up beneath you; your name becomes a warning for all generations.

A Different Beginning

Section 8

Imagine if, months earlier, you had gone to Moses privately instead of publicly. You say, "*Moses, I'm struggling. I feel overlooked. I want to serve God more, but I don't understand why Aaron's family alone gets to be priests. Can you help me see God's perspective?*"

Moses sits with you. He explains that God Himself chose Aaron, not Moses. He reminds you that carrying the holy things is also sacred work. He prays with you.

The jealousy in your heart doesn't vanish overnight, but it starts to shrink. You choose to trust God's design instead of fighting it.

You never lead a rebellion. The ground never opens. Your family lives. And one day, your descendants write some of the most beautiful psalms in Scripture (Psalms 42, 44–49, 84–85, 87–88).

END 5 – "The Humble Levite Whose Sons Wrote Psalms"

- By choosing private humility over public rebellion, you not only saved your life but left a legacy of worship that lasted for generations.

All the Endings

Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – "Humility Before the Fall"**
 - The best time to deal with pride is before anyone else knows it's there.
- **END 2 – "Saved by Fear of the Lord"**
 - God's mercy is real, but waiting until the last second is a dangerous gamble.
- **END 3 – "The Leader Who Ran"**
 - Leading others into sin and then running to save yourself is the worst kind of betrayal.
- **END 4 – "Swallowed by the Earth"**
 - Unrepentant rebellion against God's authority leads to destruction—sometimes sudden, always certain.
- **END 5 – "The Humble Levite Whose Sons Wrote Psalms"**
 - Humble obedience in the background can produce more fruit than proud rebellion in the spotlight.

Five Truths You Can Carry

- **TRUTH 1: Jealousy is the seed of rebellion.**
 - Korah's real problem wasn't Moses or Aaron—it was his own jealous heart that wanted what God had given someone else.[web:94]
- **TRUTH 2: "Everyone's equal" can become an excuse for pride.**
 - Korah said, "We're ALL holy," which sounds nice—but he used it to tear down God-appointed leadership rather than to honor God.
- **TRUTH 3: Public challenges are often private heart issues gone viral.**
 - Korah gathered 250 people to his cause, but his real issue was between him and God; going public made repentance harder and the consequences bigger.
- **TRUTH 4: God takes rebellion against His authority seriously.**
 - The ground literally opened up—this is one of the most terrifying judgments in Scripture, showing how serious rebellion is to God.
- **TRUTH 5: Your legacy depends on how you handle discontent.**
 - Korah's name became a warning (Jude 11); but historically, some of Korah's sons repented and their descendants wrote worship psalms—same family, opposite legacies.

Discussion Questions

Use these questions after going through at least one path:

1. Which ending did you get first, and how did it make you feel?
2. Where do you see Korah-like jealousy in your own life? (Examples: jealous of a friend's talent, sibling's attention, someone else's opportunities, someone's platform online)
3. "You have gone too far!"—Korah accused Moses of the exact thing Korah was doing. When have you accused someone else of pride when the real issue was your own?
4. Why is it so much easier to gather a crowd to complain with than to go humbly to God or a leader privately?
5. The ground opened and swallowed people. That's extreme. What does this teach us about how God views rebellion against authority He's established?
6. Korah's descendants wrote Psalms 42–49. What does that say about God's mercy and how our choices don't have to define the next generation?
7. If God asked you to deal with one "Korah issue" in your heart this week, what would it be?

Prayer

Lord God,

Thank You for the warning of Korah's story. Help me see jealousy and pride in my heart before they grow into rebellion. Forgive me for the times I've wanted what You've given someone else, or complained about the leaders You've placed over me.

Teach me to bring my frustrations to You first, not to a crowd. Give me a humble heart that trusts Your design, even when I don't understand it. Help me to honor the authorities You've established—parents, teachers, leaders, pastors—even when it's hard.

Keep me from being a Korah who gathers others into destruction, and make me someone whose legacy is worship, not warning.

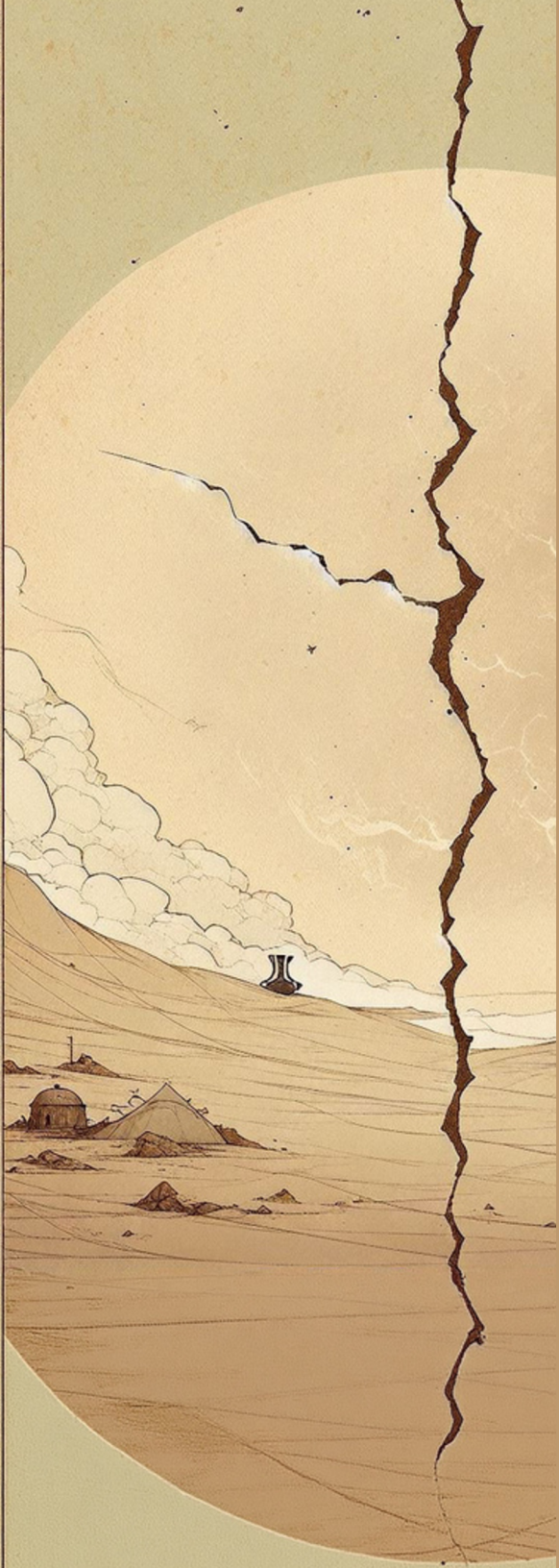
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Created for ages 11–14 | Based on Numbers 16



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Step into Korah's sandals as a Levite who feels overlooked and undervalued. Along the way, you'll face choices between jealousy and contentment, public accusation and private humility, rebellion and submission.

Inside, you'll:

- Step into one of the Bible's most dramatic rebellion stories and make Korah's choices
- Explore five different endings showing how jealousy turns into destruction—or repentance
- Discover five truths about pride, authority, and how to handle discontent God's way

Scripture basis:
Numbers 16

Recommended age:
11-14

**“Woe to them! ... they
have been destroyed in
Korah's rebellion.”**
Jude 1:11