

Lesson 4: Miriam and Aaron Speak Against Moses

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Numbers 12 – Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses
- 2) Understand that the temptation of speaking against others has consequences
- 3) Understand the sins of the mouth hurt others

Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Word Search
- Don't Fall into Temptation Craft Sheet – one per student printed onto white construction or cardstock paper
- Scissors to share
- String – 1 piece per child approximately 8 inches
- Hole Punch to share

Optional:

Don't Fall into Temptation Craft

- Cinnamon in sprinkle jar – enough to sprinkle on leaves
- White glue or glue sticks to share

Paper Cuts Activity Game

- Construction Paper – one sheet per student
- Scissors – one per student
- Tape – to share

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| - Strawberries cut into mouth shapes (see picture below) | 1-4 pieces for each child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied).

Say to students: **Can anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied that God punished the Israelites for complaining by sending a plague and fire. We learned that we should be careful not to complain but be grateful for what we have.

If you have your Bibles let's find Numbers and turn there now. (For those that might not have a Bible, have them share with someone or get them one to use. Help as needed.)

Today we are studying Numbers Chapter 12. We will see that even people that follow God sin and we will study how we can prevent ourselves from falling into the temptation of sin.

2) Numbers 12 – Miriam and Aaron Speak Against Moses

10-20 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Can I get a volunteer to read **Numbers 12:1-2**?

Discussion Questions:

What did Aaron and Miriam do? Spoke against Moses

What does the term “speak or talk against” mean? Let students answer.

I have the definition of the phrase “speak or talk against”. Listen while I read:

Talk against: to criticize someone or something. **To testify or argue against someone or something.**

What was their excuse for speaking against Moses in vs 1 & 2? Because he married a Cushite wife.

Who heard them do this? God

What do you think is going to happen? Let students answer – the idea is that God is going to punish them for speaking against Moses.

Ask for a volunteer to read **Numbers 12:3-8** and another to read **verses 9-12**

Explain: **Leprosy is a skin disease that affects the color of your skin and the use of your limbs like hands and feet. It is a deadly disease.**

What happened because Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses? God afflicted Miriam with leprosy.

What did Aaron do in response in verse 11? He asked Moses to help and admitted their foolish sin.

Let’s read Numbers 12:13-16

What did God do when Moses prayed? God said that if her father had spit in her face, she would have been considered unclean and would have to spend 7 days outside the camp for that. So, God says that she should, for her sin, have to spend 7 days outside the camp before she could be healed and brought back to the camp. This would have been very humbling and embarrassing for her and Aaron!

Did God stop Miriam and Aaron from speaking against Moses? Yes

Today, God will not directly confront people who speak against others, but they will suffer consequences for speaking against others. What would the consequences of talking against others be today? They will get into trouble. They will lose friends. They will eventually be found out to be liars or malicious people and others will avoid them in case they do the same to them. They will feel bad and guilty for speaking evil against other people.

Let’s make sure that we remember not to speak against others like Miriam and Aaron did.

We are going to do a word search next to help us remember that speaking against someone is a sin.

3) Word Search Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child with pencils. Read the directions aloud and then read each word at the bottom that students are to look for out loud for those who may have trouble reading. Help students if necessary find the words in the word search. If they cannot finish in time, they can take the paper home and complete it there. As they search, talk about how each word in the word search relates to today’s Bible account.



4) Optional: Paper Cuts Game

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet of construction paper to each child along with a pair of scissors. Have them cut out a paper doll to the best of their ability.

When you say “go” have them cut or tear their paper doll into as many pieces as possible. After 30 seconds, call “stop”. Have children count their paper doll pieces. Then hand out tape to each child and give the children one minute to put their dolls back together. After one minute have children display their reconstructed paper dolls.

Discussion Questions:

How does your reconstructed paper doll compare to the original one?

Why weren't you able to make it look the way it originally did?

Think about the last time someone put you down – how did you feel?

How did the person who put you down feel?

How is putting others down like cutting apart your paper dolls?

What can we do to help repair the damage we've done after putting someone down?

What could Miriam and Aaron have done instead of talking about Moses behind his back and putting him down?

What could they have done to apologize?

5) Don't Fall into the Temptation of Speaking Against Others

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet too each student along with scissors. Read the directions aloud and have the students cut out their leaf. Hand out crayons or pencil crayons and have them color the leaf according to the number it shows.

While students color ask them – **what does temptation mean?** Let students answer.

Explain; **Temptation is a desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.**



How was speaking against Moses a temptation for Miriam and Aaron?

They desired to do wrong to Moses by speaking against him because he married a Cushite wife. They criticized him and that was wrong and unwise, therefore they were tempted and sinned.

How can we be tempted today to do something wrong or unwise in regards to speaking against others?

Did you know there are many verses in the Bible that help us learn how to control and deal with our temptations such as speaking against others? We are going to look at two verses to see what Jesus and Paul say are ways we should control ourselves when we are tempted.

Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 10:13

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Here we see that God will provide us a way out when tempted – even though we are all tempted – God has a way out for you so that you can avoid sin.

Read the Bible verse the leaf is referring too out loud and have someone turn to their Bibles and read the entire verse from Mark 14:48. Discuss as a class how this leaf reminds us not to “fall” into temptation!

Mark 14:38

Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

Jesus says here that we need to watch and pray to avoid falling into temptation.

Hand out one piece of string to each child and with a hole punch, make a hole at top of the leaf and tie the string through it to make a hook to hang their leaf as a reminder.

*Optional: take a sprinkle jar filled with cinnamon and have the students lightly glue their leaf with glue and then gently sprinkle the cinnamon on top to make the leaf smell nice as they hang it in their homes. You can tell them that reading the Bible and praying is like a sweet pleasant aroma to God and for us.

6) Optional – Snack: Strawberries cut into mouth shapes

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **Today we studied that speaking against others is a temptation that we can all fall into but need to pray that we do not. We learned that speaking against others is a sin, it hurts others and it upsets God. Let’s think about these things while we eat our strawberry shaped lips that remind us to watch what we say and not to fall into the temptation of using our mouth for evil!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.



Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember what the phrase “speak against” means and why it is wrong.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

1) **Books of the Old Testament** – sung to the Alphabet Song (A,B,C,D...)

2) **O Be Careful, Little Eyes**

O be careful little eyes what you see
O be careful little eyes what you see
For our Father up above
is looking down in love
So, be careful little eyes what you see

O be careful little ears what you hear
O be careful little ears what you hear
For our Father up above
is looking down in love
So, be careful little ears what you hear

O be careful little hands what you do
O be careful little hands what you do
For our Father up above

is looking down in love
So, be careful little hands what you do

O be careful little feet where you go
O be careful little feet where you go
For our Father up above
is looking down in love
So, be careful little feet where you go

O be careful little mouth what you say
O be careful little mouth what you say
For our Father up above
is looking down in love
So, be careful little mouth what you say

3) **We will Listen and Obey** *(to the tune of Old MacDonald had a Farm)*

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there
Here a Yes, There a Yes, Everywhere a Yes! Yes!

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, thank you for the events in the Bible that help us learn how we should be. Thank you that we can learn how to avoid falling into temptation by praying to You and we pray now, that you will help us all to watch what we say and to say things only in love. Help us to speak well of others and to speak well of You always. We thank You for Jesus, who came and died for our sins and who teaches us how to live in accordance with Your good will. Help us this week as we go to school and home. Help us to remember to pray and to study Your Word this week. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!