

Lesson 8: Korah's Rebellion

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Numbers 16 – Korah and other's rebel against God and Moses
- 2) See the consequence of rebelling against God and His workers
- 3) Make a Prayer Journal to remember to pray for others – even those who sin against us, just like Moses did

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance

Prayer Journals

- Construction or Cardstock Paper – various colors – one per student folded in half
- White paper – 10 pieces per student folded in half or cut in half
- Stapler or Hole Punch (if using hole punch also gather some string to tie a bow in each hole x 3)
- Scrap paper, felt, tissue, ribbons, or stickers to decorate cover of Prayer Journal
- Glue sticks to share
- Scissor to share

Optional:

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)
- Pen or pencil to give to each child to use with their prayer journal

Blind Artist Game

- Blindfold – one per every two students – can use scarf, sleep mask, or bandana
- White paper – one per student
- Pencils to share

Hangman

- Large writing surface – like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.
- Marker or pen

Snack:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Grapes, Figs and/or Pomegranates | 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 the importance of remembering God's commands and being holy as God is holy. We looked at sacrifices and offerings and made a bracelet to remind us to follow God's commands and to be a sweet aroma to God.

God gave commands to the Israelites about the sacrifices and offerings and how they were to be done. This was to prepare the young Israelites who were to enter into the Promised Land after the 38 years of wandering. This would teach the young Israelites how to serve God properly

compared to their fathers who would not follow nor trust God and therefore were not allowed to enter into the Promised Land.

If you have your Bibles let's find Numbers and turn there now. (Help as needed.)

Today we are studying Numbers Chapter 16. We will see the consequences of rebellion and going against God, we will also see that God protects those who follow Him!

2) Numbers 16 – Korah Rebels

10 minutes

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

Can I get a volunteer to read Numbers 16:1-4? Read Numbers 16:1-4.

What was Korah's issue? He and the others in his group thought that they had the right to serve in the priesthood and that they were just as good as Moses and Aaron.

***Korah was part of the Levite tribe, the tribe that was chosen by God to administer the work of the tabernacle. They already were given a special job by the Lord but they also thought they should have the authority to do Moses and Aaron's job also.**

What was Moses response to this accusation? He fell on his face.

How do you think Moses would have felt? Hurt, angry, sad, worried for these men who were sinning....

Read Numbers 16:4-11

What was Moses response to Korah's accusations? He said let's let the Lord decide who is holy and he truthfully told Korah that what he was doing was wrong and that what Korah was doing was against the Lord.

Read Numbers 16:12-24

What did Moses do here to protect the Israelites? He asked God to not let them pay for the sins of Korah and his group.

If you were Moses, would you have been tired by now of always praying for this sinful group?

Let students answer.

Moses was so caring and humble that he kept trying to protect those who sinned and asked God to help them! That is an amazing characteristic to have.

How did God stand up for Moses when Korah's group spoke against Moses and Aaron? God prepared to punish those who were against Him and Moses and Aaron.

Will God stand up for those who follow Him faithfully today? Yes!

Read Numbers 16:25-40

What happened to Korah and his men? They were swallowed by the earth.

What happened to the 250 men who put fire in the censers unlawfully? They were burned with fire.

What did God say should happen to the censers that were used? They should be made into a covering for the altar as a memorial to the Israelites not to offer incense to the Lord unless they were a descendant of Aaron.

Does God take sin seriously? Yes!

Should we obey the Bible as God and Jesus have it written? Yes!

Do we have the right to change anything in the Bible? No!

Should we respect those who serve in the church like Moses and Aaron served? Yes!

Moses spoke to God on behalf of the congregation. Today, we are going to be like Moses and make a prayer journal to help us remember to pray for others – even those who have sinned against us like the complaining Israelites did to Moses.

3) Prayer Journal

20-30 minutes

Before class gather construction paper and white paper to use to make journal along with other supplies to decorate the front.



Hand out 10 pieces of white paper to each child either folded in half or cut in half. Hand out a pencil or marker to each child and have them write on the first white page across the top:

Lord, I am thankful for.....

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Continue the numbers down the page. At the bottom have them write **Psalm 9:1**

*Note: for younger students who aren't yet old enough to write well, you may want to write these before class to save time and while the older children are writing in the words, the younger students can think of things to add to their new list – mom, dad, pets, etc.

On the next page write across the top:

Lord, please bless these people....

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Continue the numbers down the page. At the bottom of the page have them write **James 5:16**

On the next page write across the top:

Lord, I need Your help with...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Continue the numbers down the page. At the bottom of the page have them write **Psalm 17:6**

On the next page write across the top:

Lord, please guide these leaders and those serving you...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Continue the numbers down the page. At the bottom of the page have them write **1 Timothy 2:1-3**

On the next page write across the top:

Lord, I need forgiveness because...

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Continue the numbers down the page. At the bottom of the page have them write **1 John 1:9**

On the last page write across the top:

Lord, help me show Your love to others by.....

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Continue the numbers down the page. At the bottom of the page have them write **1 John 3:18**.

On the last pages, either leave them blank or write a phrase at the top that pertains to your situation that might not be listed in one of the first few headings.

When done with the journal itself, hand out one colored construction paper to each child folded in half. Let them choose the color if available and then handing out crayons, markers, or pencil crayons have them write 1 Thessalonians 5:17 on the front of the Prayer Journal along with their name and the words "Prayer Journal." *Help as needed.

They can decorate the rest of the page with scrap felt, ribbon, stickers, etc. as they would like with the glue and scissors provided. Hole punch or staple the cover over the white pages they made so that the construction paper folds over as book cover and the white pages are inside.

*If hole punching also use ribbon or string to tie the journal together.

Tell the students - as you fill in your journal, you can always add pages to it, you can also checkmark the prayers that are answered and praise God when He does answer your prayers. Remember to keep the same format - thanking, praising, asking for others, etc. So you remember to not just always ask for stuff but think of others and God also while praying!

Just like Moses who spoke to God on behalf of the Israelites, we need to pray to God for those who have sinned against us and sinned against God and ask God to help them overcome their sin.

*IF time look up the verses they have written on each page and cover or ask them for homework to look up the verses during the week with their parents to see how they relate to each part of the journal. Remind them also as homework to start filling in their journal this week and continue to pray and use their journal.

4) Numbers 16 - Israel Complains....Again!

10 minutes

Can I get a volunteer to read Numbers 16:41-50? Read Numbers 16:41-50

What did the Israelites accuse Moses of? Killing the people of the Lord.

Did Moses kill anyone? No God did!

How did God stand up for Moses when He heard this? He told Moses He was going to consume or kill the people for this.

What did Moses do? He asked Aaron to make atonement so that the people would not die as the plague had already started.

Would you do that for people who had just accused you?

We need to remember to pray for those who sin against us.

Let's turn to Mark 11:25

Mark 11:25

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

If we want to be forgiven, we need to pray and forgive those who sin against us! Even though the Israelites were wrong to accuse Moses – Moses still tried to help them. He left the punishment for their sins to God and did not try to cause them harm or say anything bad against them himself. God stood up for Moses, and He will help us when we face accusations from people as well, if we trust in God, pray for those who harm us, and ask God to forgive us and them in our sins. By doing so God will look after us too!

5) Optional: Blind Artist Game

5-10 minutes

Form pairs and give each pair a blindfold, a marker and a sheet of paper. Have partners choose which person will wear the blindfold and have that person put it on. Pairs should find a place on the floor or at a table to sit.

Then have the non-blindfolded partner put the marker in the other's hand and place the paper in front of that person.

Say, **"Those of you who aren't blindfolded are going to help your partner draw a picture on your paper. Grab your partner's hand – the one holding the marker – and draw a picture on your paper. Don't tell your partner what you are helping him or her to draw. After one minute, I'll tell you to stop. Then we'll see how many blindfolded partners can guess what they've drawn without looking at the paper. Remember, there should be no talking while you are drawing and no hints!**

After one minute, ask the blindfolded partners to guess what they drew. After they have guessed, have them take off their blindfolds to see if they're right. Then ask:

If you were blindfolded, how hard was it to know what your partner was guiding you to draw? How did you feel when you found out what the picture really was?

Read to them **1 John 2:9-11**

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. 10 Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. 11 But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

Why is hating your brother or sister like being in the dark? Let students answer.

When you hate people, you can't see them for who they are – as was Korah hating Moses – you are blinded just like you were blinded in our game. You can't really see people for who they are until you stop hating them. It also causes problems in your life – just ask Korah! Just ask the

person who was blindfolded – how hard it was to guess what was really going on and the consequence was you couldn't guess the picture. We can't see properly when we are filled with hate and in the dark.

*If time allows, and if students want, let the other partner have a turn now.

6) Optional: Hangman Game

5-10 minutes

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as they say them. Play hangman with key words from the bible story – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you can explain if they can't.

Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –don't let the children know what word you have chosen and don't let them see your list of words.
2. Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ at the bottom of the page you are using to show the students.
3. Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the left at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose."
Example:



4. Have the students guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word or words. If they get the letter correct – fill it in where it belongs – example: J would go at the first slot above for J ___ ___ ___.
5. If they get the letter wrong – write the letter on the top of the page – so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman's noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
6. Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the guessing players lose. If the player figures out the word or words first, he or she wins.
7. When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

List of Words to Use

(Possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):

Holy – set apart, dedicated or devoted to the service of God – we are to be holy as God is holy

Censer – the bowl used to put the fire and incense in – only those given permission by God were allowed to use it, so when Korah and his group did it without God's approval they were punished.

Commands – are things God and Jesus have set in place for us to help us lead good, godly lives

Korah – the man who rebelled and caused trouble for Moses – we are not to hate our brothers or sisters nor are we to disregard God's commands.

Consequence – the group who were rebellious were swallowed up by the earth and those who complained against Moses were struck with a plague

7) Optional – Snack: Grapes, Pomegranates, and or Figs

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **We studied that the Israelites were offered a land flowing with milk and honey (meaning good things provided by God) this included a land full of grapes, pomegranates and figs. Instead the Israelites did not trust God and so were not allowed to enter. On top of that they complained about their circumstance and today we studied that the people thought they were just as good as Moses and Aaron and should be able to do the priestly duties as well. Their consequence was that God punished them and while doing so, God stood up for Moses and Aaron. While we are snacking, let's think of all the times in this chapter that the people of Israel sinned against God and how many times Moses warned and/or tried to intervene with God to help them.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. Ask how we can avoid the problems that Korah and the others caused and how we can more like Moses.

8) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example:

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.

9) 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 see, through Your protection of Moses, that You stand up for those who do what is right. We pray that we will remember to do what is right and to pray for those who sin against us. We ask for forgiveness Father for our sins and we pray that you will help us to forgive those who sin against us. 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. Help us to fill in our prayer journals and to use them to pray for those in need every day. We pray for the leaders of our church and our country. We pray for those who are sick or traveling that they will return to us soon. Comfort and guide those in need. And it is in Jesus' name we pray, Amen!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!