

Lesson 9: Aaron's Rod

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Numbers 17 and 18 – Aaron's Rod Buds and the Role of Priests and Levites
- 2) See how God protects His workers
- 3) Count the blessings God gave Moses and Aaron for being faithful servants and see that God also blesses us through Jesus today!

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Fill in the Blank and Color Page Activity – one per student

Optional:

- Basket of Blessings Word Scramble – one per student
- Visual Aid of Aaron's Rod and an Almond Branch – one for class to share
- Popsicle Sticks – 5 for every 2-4 children
- Blank Paper – one for every 2-4 children
- Different colored fine-tipped markers (one for every 2-4 children)
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Almonds ***Check for nut allergies first!** handful 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 saw that Korah and others opposed Moses and Aaron and because of that, God punished Korah and the others by swallowing them up by the earth. God protected Moses and Aaron and stood up for them. God also killed the 250 men who opposed them with fire, and when the Israelites complained again – God sent a plague that Aaron had to stop by making atonement for the people. We learned the importance of prayer and to even pray for those who have sinned against us.

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

Today we are studying Numbers Chapter 17. We will see God standing up for Moses and Aaron again and putting a stop to the Israelites complaints. We will also look at the ways God blessed Moses and Aaron and how He blesses us today as well when we serve Him through Christ Jesus.

2) Numbers 17 – Aaron’s Rod Blooms

10 minutes

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

Can I get a volunteer to read Numbers 17:1-5 and 6-13? Read Numbers 17.

Say: **Previously from last week we saw that the people opposed Moses and Aaron and in response to that God sent fire, swallowed up the tents of the leaders of the rebellion and sent a plague in Chapter 16. Because of all of this opposition, God says in Chapter 17 to bring out a rod for each tribe so He could show once and for all – who is His chosen man for the line of priest.**

Whose rod was singled out? Aaron’s.

How was this done? God not only made a dead stick grow, he made it bloom and produce almonds!

Moses and Aaron had not set themselves up as leaders – God appointed them. He chose them! God made it very clear by the blossoming of Aaron’s rod, that Aaron alone and his descendants should only enter the holy place.

What were the Israelites response in verse 12 and 13? When the Israelites saw it, as in every other time God performed something amazing (for example: the thunder/smoke at Mount Sinai) – the children of Israel respond with “we shall surely die!”

They see they have sinned, but they don’t think of coming close to God to be saved and to ask for forgiveness, they always think the first response is that they are going to die! They don’t believe in God’s mercy and love and they don’t trust that God wants to help them. They assume when they sin, they will die. Let that not be the case for us – let’s trust that God loves us, wants to help us and wants us to grow and learn from our mistakes. If we sin – let’s turn to God for forgiveness and strength instead of assuming we can’t be helped and are doomed to die!

3) Fill in the Blank and Color Page Activity

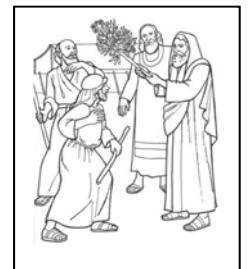
10-20 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child, for children who have trouble writing, have them draw a line from the word to the blank space it should go. Other students can fill in the blanks. Make sure you read out the fill in the blank as you go so all students can follow along and then let them color the page.

Answers:

The Lord spoke to **Moses**. Moses wrote the **names** of the 12 leaders - one for each rod. He placed the **rods** in the Tent of Meeting.

Aaron rod sprouted! This was a sign from the Lord that Aaron would be the **priest** for the **tabernacle**.



4) Optional: Basket of Blessings Word Scramble

5-10 minutes

Hand out one basket of blessing word scramble for each student. Go through it as a class and give hints as needed to help younger children.

Answers and explanations:

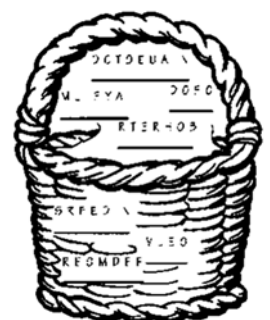
Education – from God

Family – Wife and Children

Food

Brother – Aaron and Moses were brothers and could rely on each other

Friends



Love – from God and family

Freedom – from Egyptian slavery

We have looked at Moses and Aaron’s blessings. What are some of our blessings that we can receive today thanks to Jesus? See verses below and discuss as a class. See if students can name some of the blessings we are promised today!

Luke 6:38 - Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Philippians 4:7 - And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

James 1:17 - Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

5) Numbers 18 – Blessings of Aaron’s Family and the Levites

10 minutes

Can I get a volunteer to read Numbers 18:1-8? Read Numbers 18:1-8

What was Aaron to receive? He and his descendants would work as priests and have the Levites to help in service in the tabernacle. For doing that Aaron would receive help, and a portion of the heavenly offerings that were brought to the tabernacle.

Read **Numbers 18:11-15**

Say, **Here the Lord also gives Aaron and his descendants many more blessings of food and provisions. In chapter 18, God blesses Aaron for his service, by providing food, support, purpose and all the material needs for him while he and his family serve as priests. God blesses us too!**

6) Optional: Popsicle Stick Quiz

10-15 minutes

Form teams of two to four kids. Give each team five Popsicle sticks and a sheet of paper. Give each team a different colored fine-tip marker. Assign a section of a lesson to each team:

Team 1: Numbers 17 – Aaron’s rod

Team 2: Numbers 18 – Aaron’s and Levites Blessings for Service to the Lord

If more teams are needed, then break up Numbers 17 in half and Numbers 18 in half to make four different teams

(Try to ensure younger children are put with older children so they can have help and guidance in reading and writing). Have each team make up five questions and answers from the lesson and write them down on the sheet of paper. (Check their questions and answer first to make sure they are correct and appropriate to the lesson.) Teams should number the questions and the Popsicle sticks one through five. For example: if you have three teams you will have 15 sticks numbered in three different colors. Collect all the Popsicle sticks. Have kids sit in a circle or at the table with each team sitting near each other. Drop all the sticks in a small pile in the middle of the circle or table.

Choose one team to go first. The team sends one person to pick up a stick – it can’t be theirs! Only one stick can be moved. If any other sticks move, the team forfeits their turn like in the game Pick-up Sticks. Have the player read the number and the color of the stick he or she picked up. The team with

that color reads the question with that number. The team that drew the stick answers the question. If the team members answer correctly, they keep the stick, if not, they must return the stick to the pile.

Then, the next team draws a stick. If a team picks their own stick, they must put it back and get another one. (For younger students, who may want to allow them to get a stick even if they move others as it will be more difficult for them). The game is over when the sticks are all gone from the pile in the middle. Have each team count its Popsicle sticks. The team with the most sticks wins!

7) Optional – Snack: Almonds (Check for nut allergies first)

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that: **As we studied today, Aaron’s rod not only bloomed but produced almonds! To remind us that God protects and blesses those who serve Him, we are going to eat these almonds – the same type of almonds that came from Aaron’s rod.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands.

Discuss any questions while snacking. Review what they have learned and ask what was their favorite part of today’s bible readings.

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 and Aaron that You stand up for those who do what is right. We pray that we will remember to do what is right and to remember to thank you for all the blessings you give 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 from last week and to use them to pray for those in need. 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!