

God's Choice

Numbers 16 and 17; Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 403

Lin and Jacob were playing a word game. Too soon the bell rang and recess was over. "Come, children," called their teacher. "It's time for math class."

Lin sighed. Jacob was not so quiet. "I don't know why we have to go back so soon," he grumbled.

A long time ago some grown men thought they shouldn't have to do as their leader said. They decided to rebel. They wanted to have their own way. But their way was not God's way.

There was trouble in the camp. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were very upset. They didn't think that Moses and Aaron should be the only leaders. Korah also thought it unfair that only Aaron's family served as priests. Korah and other Levites worked in the tabernacle but only Aaron's family were allowed to be priests. *I am a Levite just like Aaron, Korah may have thought. Why can't my family have a chance to be priests too?* The more he thought about it, the more unfair it seemed.

But Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had forgotten something very important. Moses had not asked for the job of leading the Israelites. God had chosen him.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram soon found others who agreed with them. Two hundred fifty other men joined the plot against Aaron and Moses. Together they went to Moses and said, "Why do you set yourself above the Lord's people?"

Moses listened to them. Then he warned them, "It is against the Lord that you and all your



The Message

**We worship God when
we respect His authority.**

followers have banded together.” But they wouldn’t listen. These men refused to accept the leaders that God had chosen. They refused to follow the instructions God had given. God wanted everyone to know that Moses was the leader that He had chosen. God made something happen that had never happened before and Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and the 250 men were destroyed. But that was not enough to stop the grumbling in the camp.

“Get a walking stick from the leaders of each of the 12 tribes of Israel,” God told Moses. “Write the name of each leader on the stick from his tribe.”

Aaron’s name was written on the stick from the tribe of Levi. God told Moses to place the 12 sticks in the tabernacle overnight. “The stick belonging to the man I choose will sprout,” said God. “I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you by the Israelites.”

In the morning Moses and all the people went to the tabernacle. They wanted to see what had happened to the walking sticks. When Moses brought out Aaron’s stick, everyone was surprised to see it had sprouted. It had budded, blossomed, and produced almonds. An old dead stick had come to life.

When Moses showed the sticks to the Israelites, they realized God had indeed chosen Aaron. Moses and Aaron served under God’s authority, and the people were finally willing to respect that.

Moses put Aaron’s walking stick in the ark in the tabernacle as a reminder to respect the authority of God. And that Bible story reminds us to respect those God puts in authority over us.

Memory Verse

**“Worship him who made
the heavens, the earth,
the sea and the springs
of water”**

(Revelation 14:7).



S A B B A T H

DO If possible, take a Sabbath walk with your family in the woods. Find a stick that could be a walking stick and use it. Find a place to rest. Then, together, read your Bible lesson story. Read your memory verse in Revelation 14:7. Take your walking stick home to remind you of the story.

M O N D A Y

READ Read Psalm 96 with your family during worship. Take turns reading different verses. Ask each person: Why do you love and respect God?

DO Review the memory verse. Then draw a picture of four things that God has made. At prayer time, think of something about these four things to thank God for.

DO Sing, play, hum, or listen to "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (Sing for Joy, no. 1).

T U E S D A Y

TELL Korah, Dathan, and Abiram had a problem. Tell your family about it. Read Numbers 16:11 together. About whom were these men really complaining? About whom in authority do you sometimes grumble?

PRAY Ask God to help you not to grumble and complain.

DO Write the memory verse on your walking stick, or attach a sign with the verse to the stick. Keep it so you can read it every day.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship, read Numbers 16 and all of 17 with your family. How many staffs did God tell Moses to gather? (Numbers 17:2)

DO Name three people God has put in authority over you. Pray for them today.

DO Take some almonds and attach them to the walking stick that you brought home. You may want to add some artificial flowers and leaves. Keep your stick for this week.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

Only a miracle could make a piece of dried wood have leaves, blossoms, and ripe almonds in one day!



W E D N E S D A Y

DO Tell and explain your lesson story to your family during worship. Did Aaron's walking stick settle the questions about Aaron's right to be priest? Read again Numbers 17:5, 8-11.

READ Read 1 Timothy 6:6. Ask an adult to explain this to you. Talk with your family about learning to accept what happens without grumbling. How will this help when you are playing? Under someone's authority? At other times?

DO Say your memory verse to an adult.



THURSDAY

DO With your family, read Philippians 2:14, 15. Draw a large star and cut it out. On the star, write three reasons not to grumble. Put it where you will see it often.

SHARE Say your memory verse to someone not in your family.

SING Sing "Smile, Smile, Smile" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 107) before prayer. Ask God to help you to keep smiling.

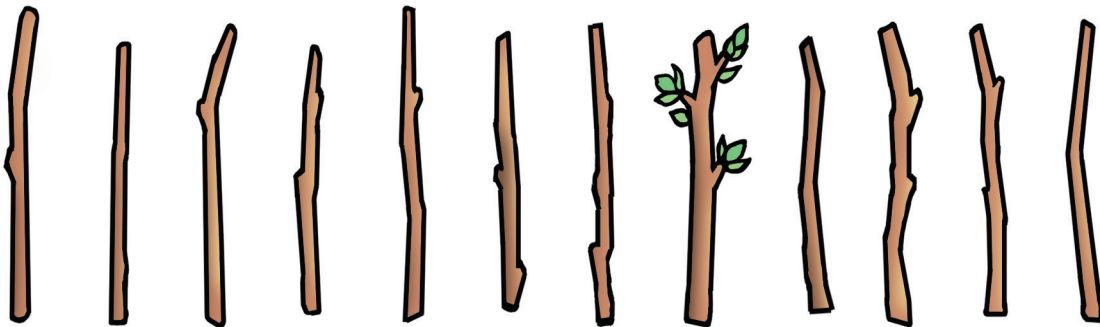
FRIDAY

SING When a president or king arrives to speak to their people, a band usually plays special music. This shows respect. Make music for King Jesus to show love and respect for Him. Sing "Clap Your Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 4). While you sing, clap your hands or use rhythm instruments (make some with spoons or sticks).

DO Tell or act out your lesson story for worship. After dark, ask your family to go outside with you to see the stars. Read Philippians 2:14, 15 together. Ask God to help you respect His authority during the Sabbath. Talk about ways to do that.

PUZZLE

Directions: Unscramble the letters to find out why one stick bloomed.



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