

God's Choice

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

Kristin 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."

Kristin 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 thought it unfair that only Aaron's family served as priests. Before the people left Egypt, Korah had been the priest in his family. As the first-born son he offered the family's sacrifices. Then God appointed Aaron and his sons to be the priests for all the people. Korah was not only unhappy about Aaron serving as priest, he didn't like the way Moses was leading the people. The more he thought about it, the more unfair it seemed.

Korah soon found others who agreed with him. Dathan and Abiram from the tribe of Reuben joined Korah in grumbling. They pointed out that it was always the custom for the oldest son to be the leader. Reuben was Jacob's oldest son, Dathan and Abiram reminded others. So someone from the tribe of Reuben, their tribe, should lead the people, not Moses. Dathan and Abiram joined Korah's plot against Aaron and Moses. But they forgot something very



The Message

We worship God when we respect His authority.

important. Moses had not asked for the job of leading the Israelites. God had chosen him. Aaron and his sons had not asked to be priests either. God had chosen them. When Korah, Dathan, and Abiram began grumbling about the leaders, they were not complaining against Moses and Aaron. They were complaining against God.

Korah, Dathan, and Abiram soon found 250 other men who agreed with them. 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 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. And when they tried to make themselves priests against God's orders, God had no choice but to destroy them. 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

Memory Verse

" 'Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water' "

(Revelation 14:7, NIV).

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.



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 parts of 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? With your family read and discuss *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 401 (last sentence).

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.



T H U R S D A Y

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.

DO 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.

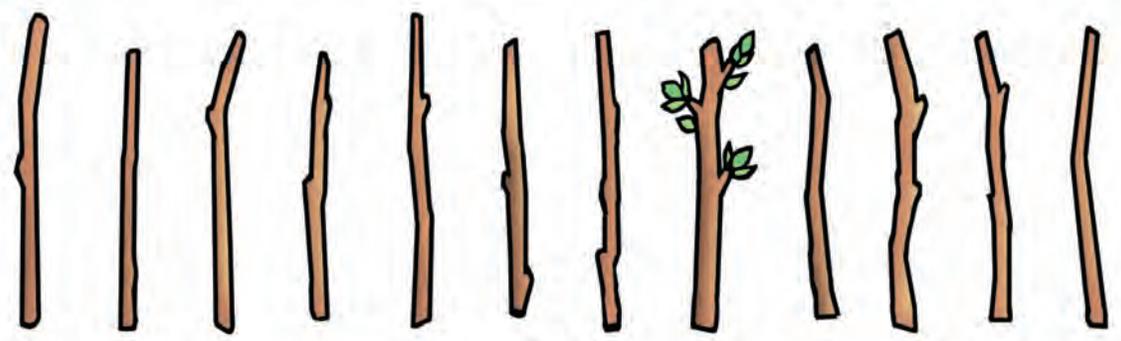
F R I D A Y

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.



OGD VORED P HATT EH SECOH

SSOME DAN ARANO SA AEDLRES.
