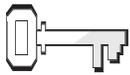


God's Choice



References

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



Memory Verse

"Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water" (Revelation 14:7).



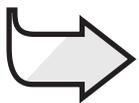
Objectives

The children will:

Know we worship the Creator God when we respect His authority.

Feel a desire to accept God's authority.

Respond by showing respect to God.



The Message

We worship God when we respect His authority.

Monthly Theme

We worship the Creator.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 men who supported them lead a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. God destroys the rebels. The grumbling continues, so God tells Moses to ask the leader of each of the 12 tribes to bring a walking stick to the tabernacle. Moses writes each man's name on his stick. Aaron's name is written on the tribe of Levi's stick. The sticks are left overnight. The next day Aaron's stick has blossoms and almonds growing on it—proving that God chose Aaron to be priest.

This is a lesson about worship.

Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and their 250 supporters were really rebelling against God's authority when they rebelled against Moses and Aaron. They were leading Israel away from worshipping God when they rejected His authority. Worship and respect go together. It is a serious matter to show respect to God as part of worshipping Him.

Teacher Enrichment

"Korah and his fellow conspirators . . . had been favored with special manifestations of God's power and greatness. They . . . went up with Moses into the mount and beheld the divine glory. But . . . a temptation . . . had been harbored, and had strengthened . . . until their minds were controlled by Satan. . . ."

"They were successful in alienating two hundred and fifty princes, men of renown in the congregation. . . ."

"His [Korah's] hearers . . . decided that all their disasters were chargeable to him [Moses], and that their exclusion from Canaan was in consequence of the mismanagement of Moses and Aaron" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 396, 397).

Aaron's rod that budded was placed in the side pocket of the ark, along with the pot of manna and the books of the law of Moses—signifying God's temporal provision during Israel's wilderness wanderings.

Room Decorations

See Lesson 5.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	<i>A. I Made It Myself!</i> <i>B. Who Am I?</i>	blocks, modeling clay (plasticine), or other materials for creating something, Bibles chalkboard and chalk or paper and markers, Bible
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering container Bible
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	13 long, thick sticks; white artificial flowers with green leaves; almonds; double-sided tape; large box or bag; craft sticks or tongue depressors; cup or bowl Bibles, beanbag Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>A. Respecting Others</i> <i>B. Respect in Church</i>	none posterboard, slips of paper with scenarios, marker
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Respectfully Yours</i>	almonds, tissue or netting, ribbon, label saying "Respect- fully Yours"

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give directions for the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- blocks, modeling clay (plasticine) or other materials from which children can create something
- Bibles

A. I Made It Myself!

Make available blocks, modeling clay (plasticine), or other materials from which the children can create something God has made. After the children are finished, invite each to show and describe his or her creation to the other children, and explain what it is.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel about what you've made?** (I like it; I'm proud of it; etc.) **How would you feel if your brother or sister or someone else ruined it for you?** (I'd be angry; I wouldn't like it; etc.) **How do you think God feels when He sees us ruining the things He's made? How do we ruin our world? our bodies? other people?** Read aloud Revelation 14:7. **God has authority over the world because He created it. Today's message tells us . . .**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- chalkboard and chalk or large sheets of paper and markers
- Bible

B. Who Am I?

You may want to divide large classes into smaller groups. One person from each group will come to you to get a word and either act it out (charades) or draw it where all in the group can see. Tell the group the category is "People in Authority." Words to whisper to the actor/artist are:

police officer	soldier	coach	grandparents
parents	babysitter	teacher	friends' parents

Debriefing

Ask: **How do we show respect to each of these people?** (Don't break the law, do what they ask you to do, speak to them politely, etc.) **How is the authority these people have like God's authority? How is it different? How do you feel when you are required to show respect?** (I feel like I'm forced; I want to show respect. It depends on the person and/or situation.) **How do we show respect to God?** Read aloud Revelation 14:7 and have the children repeat it with you. **Today's message tells us . . .**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Give a special warm greeting to visitors and introduce each by name. Acknowledge any birthdays or special events.



Suggested Songs

- "Lord, We Praise You" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 17)
- "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 1)
- "Sing Praises to the Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 2)
- "God of Great and God of Small" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 3)
- "Alleluia" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 16)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children identify an individual or situation that involved respecting authority.



Offering

Say: **We respect God as the owner of the universe when we bring gifts to Him each Sabbath. Let's give Him our gifts now.** Then collect the offering.

You Need:

- offering container



Prayer

Have someone read Psalm 95:6 and someone else read Habakkuk 2:20. Explain that we can pray in any position, but we are reverent during prayer and worship time to show respect for God's authority. Kneel reverently together and ask God to help us respect Him and those He has placed in authority.

You Need:

- Bible

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- 13 long, thick sticks (walking sticks)
- two or three white artificial flowers with green leaves
- a few almonds
- Decorate one of the sticks with flowers, leaves, almonds and put it in the large box or bag
- double-sided tape
- large box or paper bag to hold sticks
- craft sticks or tongue depressors
- cup or bowl

Experiencing the Story

When the story tells of the rod that bloomed, use double-sided tape to attach the flowers and a few almonds to the stick.

Instruct the children as follows:

When you say:

Korah

Dathan

Abiram

They do:

Shake heads.

Wag their fingers in negative gesture.

Put thumbs down.

Read or tell the story.

There was trouble in the camp. **Korah** (*shake heads*), **Dathan** (*wag fingers*), and **Abiram** (*thumbs down*) were very upset. They didn't think that Moses and Aaron should be the only leaders. **Korah** (*shake heads*) also thought it unfair that only Aaron's family served as priests. **Korah** (*shake heads*) 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** (*shake heads*) 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** (*shake heads*) had forgotten something very 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** (*shake heads*) began grumbling about the leaders, he was not complaining against Moses and Aaron. He was complaining against God.

Korah (*shake heads*), **Dathan** (*wag finger*), and **Abiram** (*thumbs down*), soon found others who agreed with them. Two

hundred fifty other men joined the plot against Aaron and Moses. They came as a group to Moses. "Why do you set yourself above the Lord's people?" they demanded to know.

Moses tried to warn 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. 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** (*shake heads*), **Dathan** (*wag fingers*), and **Abiram** (*thumbs down*) and the 250 men were destroyed.

But still the grumbling continued. There were a lot of unhappy Israelites. God was grieved. He knew the people could not make it safely to the Promised Land unless they listened to their leaders. So God told Moses what to do.

Moses asked the leader from each tribe to bring a staff—a thick walking stick. [*Show the sticks. Pretend to write the name of a tribe on each.*] Aaron's name was written on the walking stick for the tribe of Levi. God told Moses to place the 12 walking sticks in the tabernacle overnight. [*Put all the sticks in a large box or paper sack.*] "The walking stick belonging to the man I choose will sprout," God said, "and I will rid myself of this constant grumbling against you."

In the morning Moses and all the people went to the tabernacle to see what had happened to the walking sticks. When Moses brought out Aaron's walking stick [*bring out the decorated stick*], everyone was surprised to see that it had not only sprouted, it had budded, blossomed, and produced almonds. An old dead stick had come to life. When Moses showed the walking sticks to all the people, they stood silent in a moment

of worship. They knew that Aaron served under God’s authority. And they knew they should show respect for Aaron. They knew what we have learned today: We worship God when we respect His authority.

Moses put Aaron’s walking stick in the tabernacle as a reminder to respect the authority of God and of those God puts in authority over us.

Debriefing

Have a number of craft sticks (tongue depressors or other sticks) with a different numbered question from the list below taped to each. Stand the sticks in a small cup or bowl and invite the children to choose one each. Call for the questions in order, by calling the numbers. Each person may choose someone to read or answer the question.

1. What was Korah upset about?
2. What were Dathan and Abiram upset about?
3. How many leaders of the people joined Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in grumbling against the authority of Moses and Aaron?
4. Explain why we should not grumble about people in authority over us.
5. Name some people who are in authority over you. How will you act under their authority?
6. How did you feel about today’s Bible story?

Answer Key: 1. That only Aaron and his family could be priests. 2. Moses’ leadership. 3. 250. 4. When you grumble about people in authority, you grumble against the person who put them in authority—in this case, God. 5. Parents, teachers, pastor, elders, babysitters, and community leaders, etc. Answers will vary. 6. Answers will vary.

Let’s say our message together:



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

Memory Verse

Read Revelation 14:7. Repeat the memory verse, holding up a finger each for

1. “The heavens”
2. “The earth”
3. “The sea”
4. “The springs of water”

Do a beanbag toss. The children catch the beanbag and then say the next word of the memory verse, trying to keep it going without missing a beat. Repeat until children know the verse.

You Need:

- Bibles
- beanbag

Bible Study

Say: **Let’s read the story of Aaron’s rod in our Bibles. Turn to Numbers 17:1-11.** Have adult helpers assist as needed. Divide the children into two groups. One group will read what the Lord said to Moses, and the other group will read the narration. Read the verses in order:

The Lord said to Moses	Narration
verses 1-5	verses 6-9
verse 10	verse 11

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn about respecting God from these verses?** (Moses followed God’s instructions exactly [verse 11]. God clearly showed the Israelites whom He put in authority over them [verses 5-9]. They showed lack of respect to God when they didn’t respect those whom God placed in authority over them [verse 10].)

Ask: **Why were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram angry with Moses and Aaron?** (They wanted to be the leaders of Israel.) **Why was it wrong for them to grumble?** (God had not chosen them to be leaders; He had chosen Moses and Aaron. So when they complained, they were grumbling against God.) **Who are some leaders you know today?** (parents, teachers, caregivers, pastors, police, and other community workers)

You Need:

- Bibles

How should we treat them? (We should treat them with respect.) **How can we show them respect?** (Listen to them, do as they ask us, obey their rules, etc.) **How can we show respect for God's authority?** (Answers will vary but should indicate listening and obedience.) **Let's remember our message:**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

Say that with me.

3

Applying the Lesson

A. Respecting Others

Ask: **How do you show respect to people in authority?**

Remind the children of the importance of the following:

- Voice—how soft or loud they speak
 - Eye contact—when greeting (depending on the customs or culture)
 - Dress—well-groomed, dressed properly for the occasion
 - Actions—particular formalities
- Read and help the children act out the following scenarios:

1. Your parents have invited guests to your home. You wish they weren't coming today. Your mother asks you to meet them at the door.

2. Your principal asks you to come to her office to talk about your grades.

3. You are invited to eat with the person your father or mother works for.

4. Your pastor comes to visit your family.

5. You are playing at your friend's house, and his/her mother tells you to be quiet.

6. You are playing a game, and your teacher says it's time to quit.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do we obey these people?** (They have been placed in authority over us by God or other people.) **How do you feel when someone in authority tells you what to do?** (Unhappy, because it's natural to want to do things our way; would rather not; it's OK; etc.) **Do you think they want us to be happy or unhappy?** (happy) **Are they telling us this for our own good?** (Yes.) **What do you intend to do when they correct you?** (Listen to them and cooperate.) **How is this like treating God with respect?** (God placed them in authority over us.) **Remember today's message? Let's say it together.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

B. Respect in Church

In advance, draw the front of a church on posterboard and cut open the doors. Write different scenarios on small papers and place them behind the doors. (See Debriefing for ideas.)

Ask the children to pull papers through the door of the church. They are to decide if it would be respectful to do that action in church. After each is read, ask: **Is it possible to do this action in a disrespectful way?** (Sometimes we sing or pray, and if we do not mean it, it is just as disrespectful as running or shouting in church.)

Debriefing

Review and make sure the following

points are discussed. **We are respectful in church when we:**

- Sing (think about the words to songs as we sing)
- Pray (with heads bowed, quietly, reverently, etc.)
- Listen
- Dress appropriately
- Speak at the right time
- Participate

Say: **All these actions show respect to others, but most of all, they show respect for God. Remember our message? Let's say it together.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

You Need:

- posterboard
- marker
- papers with scenarios written on them

4

Sharing the Lesson

Respectfully Yours

Provide almonds for the children to take home and share. Put several almonds in a tissue or netting or almonds may be put in a napkin or paper cup. Add a paper that says "Respectfully Yours" and tie with a ribbon. Ask each child to think of someone they respect and plan to give them the almonds. Have the children form pairs and practice what they will say when they give the almonds away. Remind them to practice telling the story too.

Debriefing

Ask: **Have you chosen someone**

to whom you will give your almonds? Why did you choose that person? What will you say to them? Allow response time. **Remember our message? Let's say it together.**



WE WORSHIP GOD WHEN WE RESPECT HIS AUTHORITY.

Closing

Say: **God chose Aaron and His family to be priests. The Israelites had to choose whom they wanted to follow. We also have a choice. As we pray, raise your hand if you want to choose to be on God's side.** Pray a simple prayer asking God to help the children to make good choices.

You Need:

- almonds (or other nuts)
- tissue or netting or napkin or paper cup
- ribbon
- label that says "Respectfully Yours"

God's Choice

References

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

Memory Verse

"Worship him
who made the
heavens, the earth,
the sea and the
springs of water"
(Revelation 14:7).

The Message

We worship God
when we respect
His authority.

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.

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.

But 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 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.

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- 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.

Sunday

- For worship, read Numbers 16 and all of 17 with your family. How many staffs did God tell Moses to gather? (Numbers 17:2)
- Name three people God has put in authority over you. Pray for them today.
- 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.
- Teach your memory verse to your family.

Monday

- Read Psalm 96 with your family during worship. Take turns reading different verses. Ask each person: Why do you love and respect God?
- 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.
- Sing, play, hum, or listen to "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 1).

Tuesday

- 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?
- Ask God to help you not to grumble and complain.

- 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.

Wednesday

- 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 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? Or under someone's authority? At other times?
- Say your memory verse to an adult.

Thursday

- 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.
- Say your memory verse to someone not in your family.
- Sing "Smile, Smile, Smile" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 107) before prayer. Ask God to help you to keep smiling.

Friday

- 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).
- 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.