

Story Time: Read the story to the children:
Lesson 51: MOSES DISOBEYS GOD
NUMBERS 20:1-13

The people of Israel arrived at the Zin Desert during the first month and set up camp near the town of Kadesh. It was there that Miriam died and was buried. The Israelites had no water, so they went to Moses and Aaron and complained, "Moses, we'd be better off if we had died along with the others in front of the LORD's sacred tent. You brought us into this desert, and now we and our livestock are going to die! Egypt was better than this horrible place. At least there we had grain and figs and grapevines and pomegranates. But now we don't even have any water." Moses and Aaron went to the entrance to the sacred tent, where they bowed down. The LORD appeared to them in all of his glory and said, "Moses, get your walking stick. Then you and Aaron call the people together and command that rock to give you water by speaking to it. That's how you will provide water for the people of Israel and their livestock." Moses obeyed and took his stick from the sacred tent. After he and Aaron had gathered the people around the rock, he said, "Look, you rebellious people, and you will see water flow from this rock!" He raised his stick in the air and struck the rock two times. At once, water gushed from the rock, and the people and their livestock had water to drink. But the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you refused to believe in my power, these people did not respect me. And so, you will not be the ones to lead them into the land I have promised." The Israelites had complained against the LORD, and He had shown them His holy power by giving them water to drink. So they named the place Meribah, which means "Waters of Strife."

51. MOSES DISOBEYS GOD (NUMBERS 20:1-13)



"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice."
1 SAMUEL 15:22

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MEMORY VERSE:

"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice." 1 SAMUEL 15:22

TRUE OR FALSE

1. Miriam died and was buried at Kadesh. TRUE or FALSE
2. The Israelites had plenty of water, so they went to Moses and Aaron and complained. TRUE or FALSE
3. The Israelites thought they were going to die, and told Moses and Aaron that Egypt was better than the place they were in. TRUE or FALSE
4. Moses and Aaron went into the sacred tent and prayed to the LORD. TRUE or FALSE
5. The LORD told Moses to take his walking stick and go to the rock and hit it to bring water out of it for the people. TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Where did the people always wish they could go back to? Was it Egypt?
2. What did Moses do to the rock to make water come out? Was that what the LORD told him to do?
3. What did the LORD tell Moses to do to make the water come out of the rock?
4. What did the LORD tell Moses and Aaron about leading the people into the Promised Land? Would they be able to?
5. What did the Israelites call that place? What does Meribah mean? Is it "Waters of strife"?

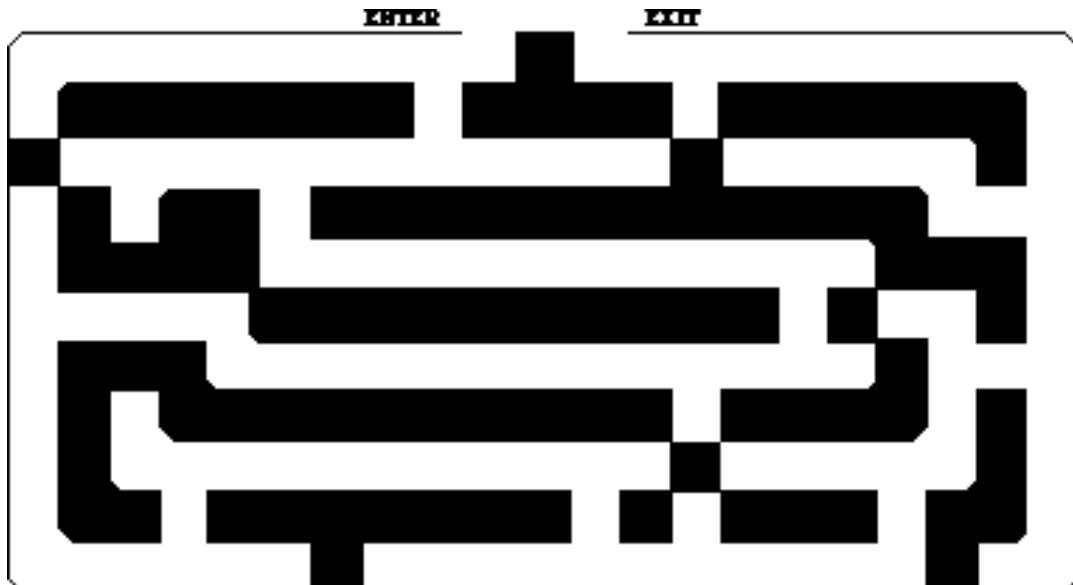
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K	A	E	P	S	D	S	W	O	H
B	T	K	O	R	J	T	A	F	D
R	W	O	L	L	A	H	T	V	O
B	E	C	T	P	Q	E	E	G	G
M	J	T	A	I	R	I	R	S	M
K	C	U	R	T	S	D	S	V	P
E	Z	I	N	Q	I	F	E	M	S
L	K	C	O	R	L	A	S	A	V
M	I	R	I	A	M	Y	O	Z	O
J	Z	Y	E	B	O	Y	M	S	J

DIE
GOD
HALLOW
MIRIAM

MOSES
OBEY
ROCK

SPEAK
STRUCK
WATER



51. MOSES DISOBEYS GOD



Lesson 51 Craft/Activity

Drink Demo

Bring a pitcher, a package or two of unsweetened Kool-aid, and some sugar.

Tell the children to watch closely and have one of the children (if they read) read the instructions step by step as you make the Kool-aid. When it comes to the sugar, just say you don't think it needs sugar, so you will just leave it out. If the kids don't break into an uproar of laughter right then, ask them if they think that's alright. Measuring carefully, try talking them into just settling for less than the recipe calls for. If one or two want to try a sip, give them a sip of the sour Kool-aid.

Ask them why it is important to follow directions. Finish making the Kool-aid and give them each a cup.

God told Moses he was to speak to the rock, not to strike it. From the rocks that flowed with water in the wilderness, God was creating a beautiful picture. In 1 Corinthians 10:4 we read, "They drank from that spiritual rock that followed them; and that rock was Christ." Jesus promised the woman at the well "living water": "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." In Exodus 17:20, Moses struck the rock and it brought forth its water. Jesus was struck to provide the forgiveness of our sins and bring us back into rich fellowship with God. The rock needed to be struck only once, just as Jesus died for our sins "once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Read, also, Romans 6:9-10; Hebrews 9:26, 28; and 1 Peter 3:18.

In not following God's instructions, Moses ruined a beautiful example of Jesus Christ and His complete work for us. As a result of Jesus, our rock, being struck, we may come boldly before the throne of God's grace. Jesus took the judgment that was due to us. We need only speak to the rock to experience God's forgiveness and rich fellowship.

Listen Carefully

Have small prizes ready and set aside.

Quiet the class and give them some specific instructions for different tasks. You may want to explain to them how to play a game or a relay or just give them a list of things to do. The important part will be in your instructions. You can explain to them to do things such as: Touch the dry erase board, shake hands with a friend, pat your head three times, say, "Jesus loves me," then sit down in your place in the circle. For those who did exactly as you said, give them a small prize.

Explain how Moses did not obey exactly and missed out on an enormously important blessing—something he had been looking forward to his entire life.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to obey the Lord in all of the details of their lives, being careful not to take the things of the Lord for granted. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.