

# Take Time to Be Holy



Lesson 8

## Leaders for God's People

**Theme:** Obedience—God's authority to reward and punish

### Memory Verse

"Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the Lord; and when the Lord heard it, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them."

Numbers 11:1

### Daily Bible Readings

- 1 Numbers 16:1-14
- 2 Numbers 16:16-35
- 3 Numbers 16:41-50
- 4 Numbers 17:1-11
- 5 Numbers 18:8-14, 19-20

**G**od gave His people leaders to help them follow Him and enjoy His blessings. In leading God's people, different men had different responsibilities. One time, some leaders were jealous of other leaders and accused them of putting themselves above everyone else.

### God's Way

Remember God wanted Israel to be His people—"a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." To help people be holy, God provided priests and sacrifices. God chose Aaron to be Israel's first High Priest and Aaron's sons to be priests in Israel for years to come. God also appointed others in the tribe of Levi to serve by taking care of the tabernacle. These men were called Levites.

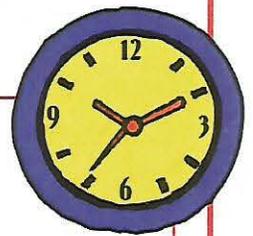
**After this lesson you should be able to ...**

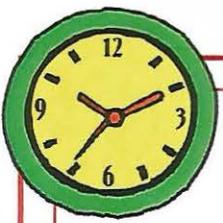
- Describe why Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebelled against Moses and Aaron's leadership
- Describe their punishment
- Tell how God showed the people His choice of Aaron

### Numbers 16:1-14

*Matching:*

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Korah said...             | ...the Lord will show who is His.       |
| Moses said...             | ...Moses exalted himself.               |
| Dathan and Abiram said... | ...Moses didn't bring them into Canaan. |





### Numbers 16:16-35

How could people protect themselves from being punished along with the men who rebelled?

- a) go into their tents, b) cover their faces, c) move away from Korah, Dathan and Abiram

How did God punish those who rebelled?

They were not priests, but they helped the priests. Some men among the Levites wanted more power than God had given them. Other leaders in Israel were also unhappy with Moses and Aaron being the main leaders. Instead of respecting God's way, several leaders joined together to complain against the leaders God had appointed over His people.

### Man's Way

Leaders often have a hard job to lead many people to work together. And when things do not run smoothly, people often blame and resent their

leaders. Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 other leaders in Israel joined together against Moses and Aaron. Korah complained that Moses and Aaron had put themselves over the people. Dathan and Abiram accused Moses of not bringing the nation into the land of Canaan.

When charges were brought against Moses and Aaron, they didn't get angry and fight back. Moses said they should take the matter to the Lord for Him to make it clear. Each man was to bring a censer—a container for burning incense—put fire in it and lay incense on it before the Lord. Moses said the Lord would show who He wanted to lead His people.

The next day, all the men, including Moses and Aaron, met at the doorway of the tent of meeting. Each man placed his equipment before the Lord to see what He would do. The glory of the Lord appeared. God told everyone to get back from around Korah, Dathan, and Abiram—men who had led the rebellion. Moses warned everyone to get away "so you won't be swept away in all their sin." When everyone backed away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, the ground opened up and swallowed the men and then closed over them. Fire also came from the Lord and took away the 250 leaders who had rebelled along with Korah.

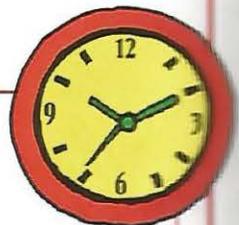
What happened to Korah and the other rebels made the people of Israel unhappy. The next day, people came together against

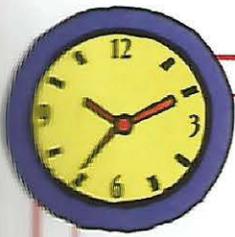
### Numbers 16:41-50

*True or False?*

The people accused Moses and Aaron of causing the deaths of the people.

God destroyed 14,700 of the people with a \_\_\_\_\_.





### Numbers 17:1-11

God showed His choice of Aaron as Israel's priest by a) making his face shine, b) causing his rod to bud and produce almonds, c) causing his rod to get longer than the others.

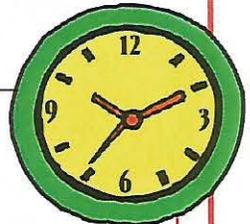
Moses and Aaron, blaming them for what happened. Since the people were still unwilling to go God's way, God sent a plague among them to both punish and teach them. Aaron quickly acted for the people and asked God to stop the plague. 14,700 people died because they rebelled against the leaders God had appointed.

In two more ways, God showed His people that Aaron and his sons were the rightful and only priests in Israel. First, leaders of the twelve tribes placed rods in the tent of meeting. During the night, God showed His choice of Aaron as Israel's priest by making only his rod bud and produce almonds. Aaron's rod was then placed in the ark of the covenant to remind people not to rebel against or grumble about God's way.

Second, God specially provided for Aaron's family. They would not receive land in Canaan as the other tribes did, though they did receive cities to live in. Aaron's family would be supported by receiving parts of some sacrifices to eat. God also made clear to everyone the work of Levites and the work of priests. He had acted so that people could learn and respect His way.

### Numbers 18:8-14, 19-20

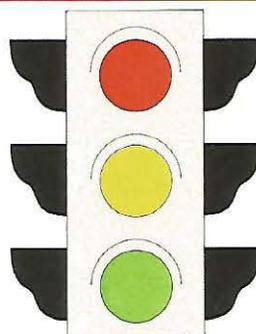
As priests, Aaron and his sons did not receive any land as the other tribes received. Instead, God provided for the priests by a) building houses for them, b) giving them many children, c) letting them eat parts of some sacrifices.



### Which Way?

Each person must decide which way he or she will go—God's way or some other way. God has a way He wants things done. Today, He makes His way known in the New Testament. Will we go God's way? We must decide to be strong and not sin and not let anyone else push us into sin. One way we can go God's way is to respect our leaders at home and in the church.

I show my respect for God by obeying Him.

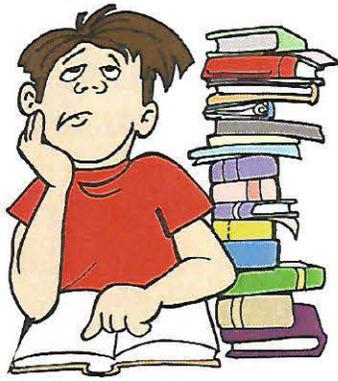


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red**—not often

**Yellow**—sometimes

**Green**—all the time



## Think About It...

Is rebelling against your parents similar to rebelling against God? Why or why not?

## Take Time for Bible Facts

Right here, right now, write John 3:16 from memory.



Using letters beginning with “A,” put the major stages of Bible history in their proper order:

- \_\_\_ Punished by captivity
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt
- \_\_\_ Law at Mount Sinai
- \_\_\_ Wilderness wanderings

On a map inside the back cover, mark with a  Israel’s enemies: Edom, Ammon, Moab, Philistia and Assyria/Babylon/Persia.