

# Korah Leads a Rebellion Against God; Aaron's Rod Comes to Life

Numbers 16; 17; 26:9-11



Old Testament 4  
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

## SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Numbers 16; 17; 26:9-11; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 10:10-12; Psalm 106:16-18

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Obey those who rule over you" (Hebrews 13:17a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account" (Hebrews 13:17a).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Korah's Rebellion](#)"
- "[Who is on the Lord's Side?](#)"

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- [Life of Moses, Journey through the Wilderness A Beka Flash-A-Card Series](#) (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; Note on cards 6.3 and 6.5 that angels are not said to have wings in Scripture)
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

We are to pray for our elders, deacons, and preachers and show them respect (and obey our elders) because they are God's helpers.



## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

When Mama or Daddy tell you to do something, should you obey them? What happens if you don't obey? God wants us to obey Mama and Daddy, just like He wants us to obey Him. Today we are going to talk about some men who did not obey Him and what happened to them.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Do you ever feel like you don't want to obey your parents or your teachers? Why should we obey them even when we don't feel like it? God expects us to show respect for and to obey our parents, teachers, elders, and others that God has put in charge, because they are responsible for us and are trying to help us. Today we are going to learn about some men who decided they did not need to listen to the man God chose to lead His people. Let's see what happened.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review briefly the 12 spies' trip to Canaan and God's punishment of the people (40 years of moving from place to place in the wilderness) because of their lack of faith.
2. Some of the Israelites didn't like the idea that they would have to move around in the wilderness for such a long time. They wanted to go into the Promised Land without waiting. They decided they were tired of Moses being their leader. One man in particular, Korah, wanted to take Moses' place; he thought he was just as good a man as Moses.
3. **Korah** and some of his friends (**Dathan, Abiram, and On**) convinced 250 leaders of the people that Moses needed to be replaced. They went to Moses and listed their complaints. They rebelled against Moses and Aaron's leadership (Numbers 16:11). God was very angry because of Korah's actions and words. He had specially chosen Moses and had given him the authority to lead the people. No one had the right to tell God that He had made a mistake.



**NOTE:** **Korah** was a Levite and resented not being equal to Aaron, his sons, and Moses. **Abiram, Dathan, and On** were from the tribe of Reuben (the oldest son of Jacob) and, as such, apparently felt **they** should be part of the nation's leadership.

4. Moses sent word to Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and the others to stand in front of their tents the next day so that God could show all the people who He wanted to be their leader. The next day, God caused the ground to tremble and split open in front of the men's tents. The troublemakers and some of their families fell into the huge cracks in the ground, and the ground closed over them.
5. Then God sent fire to kill the 250 men who had followed Korah. The rest of the Israelites were terrified by what they saw. Nothing like that had ever happened before!
6. God punished Korah and the others because they **rebelled** against a decision (choice, law) made by God, against the leaders He chose, and against God Himself. [Give some examples of how we rebel against authority, i.e. parents, policemen, teachers, etc.] God knows that there must be people in charge in our homes and schools and towns and churches. Without people in charge, everything would be confusing and chaotic. God expects us to follow their rules and

guidelines, even if we don't like them, because God has given them the right (the authority) to lead us.



**Rebel:** to purposely disobey a recognized authority. Rebellion against God is so serious that it is compared with the sins of witchcraft and sorcery in 1 Samuel 15:23.

7. To further emphasize whom His chosen leaders were, God told Moses to take a rod (staff) from the head of each of the 12 tribes and write the men's names on their rods. God said to put the rods inside the tabernacle until the next morning. He said He would show the people again who **He** wanted their leaders to be. Moses put the 12 rods, as well as the rod of Aaron (which he had carried before Pharaoh), inside the Tabernacle. The next morning, Aaron's rod (a dead piece of wood) had miraculously sprouted leaves and had ripe almonds on it. When Moses brought all the rods out before the Israelites, he showed them Aaron's rod. That was a sign that God had chosen Moses and Aaron to be their leaders; no one but God had the right to choose their leaders.
8. Aaron's rod was put into the Ark of the Covenant (along with the two stone tablets of the Ten Commandments) to remind the Israelites for generations to come about this lesson on authority and obedience to God.



**NOTE:** The Ark of the Covenant was like a “memory box” for the children of Israel. They were to remember the events that the objects stood for.



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Contents of the Ark of the Covenant](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the allegation that Scripture contradicts itself regarding the contents of the Ark of the Covenant.

9. In the Church, God planned for us to have elders and deacons to lead us. His Word tells us what kind of men they are to be and how they are to lead us. God expects us to show them respect, and to obey the elders. If we rebel against authority of any kind, we are rebelling against God Himself.
10. Of course, if an authority told us to do something wrong, God wants us to obey Him rather than the authority (Acts 5:29). We are to obey our parents always, as long as their commands are “in the Lord” or according to His will (Ephesians 6:1).



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[Shall the Judge of All the Earth Do Right? A Study of the Righteousness of God](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site for an in depth study on the justice of God.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

### Ages 2-5:

- “[Korah’s Rebellion Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have pictures of a boy, girl, mother, daddy, grandparents, kitten, teacher, puppy, and an elder. Give pictures to children and ask, “Who/Which one is more important?” Emphasize that no one person is more important than the other in God’s eyes, but each one has a different, God-assigned task.

### 1st-2nd Graders:

- “[Korah’s Rebellion Tic-Tac-Toe](#)” with facts from this lesson and previous lessons (questions provided in activity sheets)
- “[Korah’s Rebellion Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read *Tale of Peter Rabbit* book

### 3rd-4th Graders:

- “[Korah’s Rebellion Tic-Tac-Toe](#)” with facts from this lesson and previous lessons (questions provided in activity sheets)
- “[Korah’s Rebellion Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Give children concordances and Bible dictionaries to search for the words “authority” and “rebel.” Have them write down their answers and/or observations and share them with the class.
- Have the children read the following:
  - Numbers chapters 16, 17, and 26
  - “[What God Says about Jealousy](#)” from the Apologetics Press Morality Tract series
  - *Discovery Magazine* article: “Swallowed by the Ground!” ([October, 2003](#))

### SONGS:

#### “KORAH’S REBELLION”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

#### “WHO IS ON THE LORD’S SIDE?” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: “What Can Wash Away My Sin?”)

(Separate “Moses” from “Israel” for the song.)

Moses: Who will come and stand with me?

Israel: We will worship God forever!

Moses: Who will come and holy be?

Israel: We will worship God forever!

All: Our God is good and great!

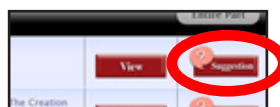
He does all evil ha-te!

Why should we longer wait?

We will worship God forever!

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.





# Korah Leads a Rebellion Against God; Aaron's Rod Comes to Life

Numbers 16; 17; 26:9-11



Old Testament 4  
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

## WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Numbers 16; 17; 26:9-11; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Corinthians 10:10-12; Psalm 106:16-18

### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Obey those who rule over you" (Hebrews 13:17a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account" (Hebrews 13:17a).

### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Korah's Rebellion](#)"
- "[Who is on the Lord's Side?](#)"

### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Life of Moses, Journey through the Wilderness A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMERS: use the cards, *not the lesson book*; Note on cards 6.3 and 6.5 that angels are not said to have wings in Scripture)
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

We are to pray for our elders, deacons, and preachers and show them respect (and obey our elders) because they are God's helpers.





## INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Do you know why I’m your teacher? It isn’t because I like to be in charge and tell you what to do. Our elders want you to hear about God’s Book from teachers who know and love the Bible and want to teach you what it says. The elders expect me to tell you what the Bible says about God and Jesus so that you will learn to love them. In class, you show your teachers respect when you listen carefully, pay attention, and obey.
3. Your parents don’t tell you what to do just because they like to be bossy. God has given them the job of helping you grow up and make good choices. Do you have a younger brother or sister or know a child that’s younger than you? Do you think you know more than them because you are older and have more experience? Of course. In the same way, your parents are much older than you. So they know more, and God wants them to teach you what they know. You show your parents respect by listening to them, talking to them respectfully, and obeying them.
4. Sometimes people don’t like other people telling them what to do. So they do and say things that are unkind or “smart-alecky.” God is never happy when we act like that! Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Exodus 21:15,17

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.

