

**KORAH REBELS AND AARON'S ROD BUDS****Numbers 16, 17**

**Lesson Memory Verse:** I Timothy 5:17 - "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine."

**Lesson Aim:** To teach the children that God wants them to love, respect and honor His leaders.

**Lesson Plan:** Use the KEY - HE - SEE - WE - BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

**KEY (for Attention):** Tim lived in California and sometimes they would have earthquakes. His father and mother told him many times that whenever they called him, he was to come home just as fast as he could run so they could protect him if there was an earthquake. One day Tim was playing in the yard and he felt the ground tremble, but he was having such a good time playing that when his mother called him, Tim did not go in. Tim disobeyed her. He did not honor his mother's command to come in. Tim thought he knew more than his mother.

While he was playing outside, the ground trembled again and a flower pot fell off an outdoor shelf and landed on Tim's head, leaving a bad cut. It really hurt. Tim's mother had to take him to the hospital. She cared for him, because she loved him, but she could not take away the hurt. Tim got hurt because he disobeyed.

God has given us other leaders, besides our fathers and mothers. These leaders are our pastors. God has given them to us to help us. God wants us to obey and to honor these men, because He has chosen them to be our leaders. Some people do not obey and honor their pastors. As a result, they get hurt. God still loves them, but sin always hurts.

**HE (for Authority):** Our memory verse says that we are to give special honor to God's elders (pastors) that rule well. They should receive twice as much honor from us as we would give to other leaders. Tim should have listened to his mother when she called. This would have showed honor to her, and he would have been saved from a bad cut on his head. You and I are to honor our pastors, to love and respect them, and to obey what they say. That will keep us safe when trouble comes.

**SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.**

In our lesson today we will see how God punished those that did not honor their leaders. From this lesson we are to learn that it necessary to honor the leaders that God has given to us. These leaders are important to Him, so they should be important to us. (TEACHERS: This lesson is probably more than you can teach in one lesson, so select that which meets the needs of your class best.)

**I. Sin of Korah (16:1-3)**

Korah, a Levite, and 250 chief men rebelled against the leadership of Moses and Aaron (16:1, 2). He and these other men accused Moses and Aaron of taking the job of leading Israel without sharing that honor with them (16:3). They felt that they were too important to be neglected.

**WE:** We should not be jealous of the position that God has given to our church leaders, and especially to our pastors, when they are doing the job that God has given them to do. We should not speak against them, but we should honor them. We must not listen to those that do speak falsely against God's leaders.

**II. Sorrow of Moses (16:4-15)**

When Moses heard their accusation, he fell on his face (16:4) and warned them about wanting more honor than God had already given them (16:5-11). Many of them were Levites, a tribe that God had honored to be active in the worship of Him, but they wanted more honor; they wanted to do the work of priests, which was more honorable.

Then Dathan and Abiram added to Moses' sorrow when they accused him of doing wrong for not bringing the people into the Promised Land (16:12-15). That was an unjust charge against Moses because it was the sin of the people who believed the spies instead of God that kept them out of the Promised Land and made them wander in the wilderness.

**WE:** If we speak against God's leaders and make them sad, we make God sad. We do not want to hurt God, so we should not hurt our pastors.

### III. Sentence of the Lord (16:16-19a)

Korah came with 250 chief men and the whole congregation to stand against Moses and Aaron (16:16-19a). They all brought censers to offer incense before the Lord like the priests would do. Then God came in His glory and told Moses and Aaron to stand aside so He could destroy Korah and the people with him. Moses and Aaron pled with God not to destroy all of the people for the sin of a few. God then told Moses to tell the people to get away from Korah and the 250 chief men or they would die with them (16:19b-24). Then Moses went to the tents of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and told the congregation to leave that area while these wicked men and their families stood by their tents. Korah, Dathan and Abiram showed no respect for Moses at all. Moses explained to everyone that if these wicked people were swallowed up by an earthquake, it was God's punishment for their sin of rebelling against their leaders (16:25-30). Then the earth opened its mouth and these three men and their families were swallowed up by an earthquake. God also sent a fire to burn up the 250 chief men that offered incense before Him without His approval. In this way God honored Moses and Aaron, which He had appointed to lead Israel (16:31-35).

**WE:** If we sin and are too stubborn to confess it, we sin against God. The more stubborn we are, the greater His punishment will be. That is what happened to Pharaoh. We must not rebel against our pastors. If they are doing the work that God gave them to do, we must honor them or we will be punished by God for our sin.

### IV. Scream of the People (16:41)

The people accused Moses and Aaron for killing Korah and his followers. They called these wicked men "the people of the Lord."

**WE:** When we call good people bad, and bad people good, we are the wicked ones in God's eyes (Prov 17:15). We must never charge our pastors with sin, if they are obeying God, even though we may not like how they are obeying Him.

### V. Sickness from the Lord (16:42-50)

When God heard that the people were still attacking His leaders, He was ready to destroy all of them (16:42-45). Moses and Aaron fell on their faces, but God sent a sickness among the people in spite of their pleas (16:45-46). Moses told Aaron to make atonement for the sins of the people and stand between the dead and the living, which he did (16:47-48). The sickness was stopped, but not until 14,700 people died (16:49-50).

**WE:** We should never take sin against our pastors lightly. God will not allow us to get away with sin. Sickness and even death can come when we sin.

### VI. Stick of Aaron (17:1-13)

God told Moses to have each of the twelve tribes to bring him a rod (stick) with their tribe leader's name on it (17: 1-2). Moses wrote Aaron's name on the stick that was from the tribe of Levi (17:3). Then Moses put these twelve sticks in the tent where God met with Moses and the stick that blossomed would be the man that God had chosen to be the high priest of His people (17:4, 5). The next day Aaron's stick blossomed and even had almonds on it. The other sticks were bare. God showed the people that He had chosen Aaron (17:6-13).

**WE:** We are to respect those that God has chosen to be your pastors. And we are to serve God in the place that He has chosen for us without being jealous about someone else's ministry.

**BE (for Action):** Have you ever said anything against your pastor? If you have, confess it to God before you leave this room. But more than that, what have you done to show your pastor that you love, respect, and honor him? What could you do? (Suggestions: you could tell him that you are glad he is your pastor. You could stand up for him if other people speak against him.) What will you do for your pastor this week? Think of something and do it this week. God will be pleased with you and honor you for it.