

JOURNEY TO KADESH-BARNEA

Numbers 10 - 12

Lesson Memory Verse: "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent" (Rev 3: 19).

Lesson Aim: To teach the children that God disciplines those who sin because He loves them and wants to keep them from getting into more trouble.

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

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever been told that something was hot and that you were not to touch it? What are some hot things that you were told not to touch? (It may have been the stove, the iron on the ironing board, the toaster, the charcoal grill, a piece of charcoal, etc.) Have you ever touched anything hot? What happened when you touched it? (Let the children tell of their experiences for a few minutes.) In our Bible story today, we want you to know that sin will hurt you like these hot things. Doing naughty things may look like fun, but they will hurt you. Saying bad words may sound smart, and doing wrong things to other people may make you feel tough, but God is stronger than you, and He will discipline you for these things. Then you will not feel tough. Sin will always hurt you. Stay away from sin, just like you would stay away from a hot fire. God will bring troubles into your life for smaller sins, so you will not start doing greater sins and get into worse trouble.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that God "rebukes" us when we sin. That means He scolds us and tells us where we are wrong. Sometimes He scolds us through our parents, sometimes through our pastors or other leaders in the church and sometimes through our friends. Whenever someone scolds us for sinning, God is using them to rebuke us.

Our memory verse also says God "chastens" us. That means He disciplines or spansks us in some way. If your parents spank you for some sin, God is using them to chasten you. If you are sent to the principal's office for some sin, you are being chastened by God. Sometimes God may chasten you by making you sick or by letting you have an accident. Of course, some people get sick or have an accident when they have not sinned. God is teaching them some other lesson. But if you have sinned and you know it, our memory verse says that God will rebuke you and chasten you because He loves you. He wants to keep you out of serious trouble. He wants you to hate your sins and "repent" of them. "Repent" means you change your mind about your sins. Instead of loving your sins, you hate them and do not want to do them anymore. God wants you to turn away from them and leave them forever. He wants you to be "zealous" in leaving your sins. That means He wants you to put your whole heart into hating your sins and leaving them. If you are zealous when you repent of your sins, you will please the Lord, and He will keep you out of trouble and shame.

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 learn from the Bible about some sins that people committed and what God did to them when they sinned.

I. The People of Israel Began to Travel (10:11-13)

The Israelites began to travel from Mt. Sinai to the land that God had promised them. It was only about 200 miles away, and it should not have taken more than a month, maybe only three weeks to get there. As they travelled they began to sin. Each time they sinned, they got disciplined by God and took much longer to travel to the Promised Land than they had expected. They finally got to the border of the Promised Land when they sinned so badly that God would not let them go into the Promised Land. Those older than 20 years wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until they died. They paid an awful price for their sin.

WE: We do not want God to discipline us. He may take away something that we want very much. God will take it away to teach us to hate sin and stay away from it.

II. The People of Israel Began to Complain (11: 1-3)

Their complaining made God angry, and He sent fire to burn them. It was wrong for the people of Israel to complain. They should have been thankful for all that God was doing for them. Complaining does not help anyone. God does not like complainers because it is a sin to complain.

WE: We must not complain about the food we are given to eat or the clothes that we are given to wear. We must stop complaining about anything because God will discipline us, if we complain.

III. The People of Israel Began to Be Greedy (11:4-35)

The people got tired of manna and wanted meat to eat like they had in Egypt. God heard them and kindly gave them plenty of meat by sending thousands and thousands of quail to their camp (quail are good bird's birds to eat). The birds flew three feet from the ground so the people could easily catch them and kill them (11:13-23, 31-32).

The people became greedy and killed far more birds than they could possibly eat. God was angry with their greediness and sent a plague to kill many of them with sickness. They died while their mouths were still filled with food (11:33).

WE: We must not be greedy with the things that God gives us by taking more than we need. That is sin. God hates the sin of being greedy. He will cause you to be hurt in some way if you are greedy. Stay away from this sin.

IV. Aaron and Miriam Began to Be Jealous (12:1-15)

Miriam and Aaron were jealous of the power that Moses had. They thought that they should be as important as Moses, if not more important. They said a bad thing about Moses by saying that he married the wrong woman (12:1). But God was not unhappy with Moses' wife, so why should they be? They also said that God had spoken by them as well as by Moses (12:2). They thought Moses was no better than they were. God heard them and told Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to meet with Him (12:4).

WE: We should never try to make ourselves look better than our brothers or sisters, or even our friends, by saying bad things about them. This also is a wicked sin. God hears everything we say, too. So we must be careful what we say, because God will discipline us for all the bad things that we say (Matt 12:36).

God scolded Aaron and Miriam for their sins (12:5-9), and when He left them, Miriam had leprosy, a terrible sickness that would force her to leave the camp so others would not get her disease (12: 10). Aaron told Moses they had sinned and asked Moses to pray for them (12:11, 12). Moses did and he asked God to heal Miriam after they confessed and repented of their sins. God then healed Miriam (12:13-15). However, He did make Miriam leave the camp for seven days to teach the seriousness of her sin.

WE: God will also scold us for our sins if we are His children (Heb 12:6). He may even make us sick when our sin is great. He wants to teach us to hate our sins. If we confess our sins, God will forgive us and may not need to discipline so hard. He will look at our heart to see how much we hate our sins.

BE (for Action): What sins did the people of Israel do on the way to their new home? (They complained, they were greedy and they were jealous.) Do you ever do any of these things? They are sinful, aren't they? (Remind the children again that, unless they repent, God will have to punish them for their sin.)

Have the children bow their heads and ask if any of them need to confess sins of complaining, of being greedy, or of being jealous. Have them raise their hands if they do, and tell them that you will stay after class to pray with those who want to get these sins confessed. Maybe you can also give them some help in knowing how to have victory over these sins after you have prayed with them. Then plan to check on them each week. A Sunday school teacher that keeps a weekly check on the spiritual progress of each child will be a great influence in helping those children to grow for the Lord.