



Lesson 38: Miriam and Aaron complain

Scriptural Basis:



Numbers 12

Overview:

Miriam and Aaron grumble against Moses. First, they grumble about his Cushite wife. Then they compare themselves to Moses saying “hasn’t God spoken through us as He spoke through Moses?” God’s answer was clear that He had set Moses apart for His purposes, and that no one had the right to speak against God’s chosen prophet.

Things to consider:

Miriam and Aaron foolishly spoke against Moses, which was really an act of defiance toward God. The Bible is clear that God’s ways are above our ways, and we show our trust in Him by submitting to those he puts into our lives. Even when David was being hunted by king Saul, and had an opportunity to kill him, David knew better than to take matters into his own hands.

The gospel in the story:



Many biblical scholars have pointed out that there is an analogy between the physical condition of leprosy and the spiritual condition of sin. Leprosy isolates a person from the rest of the family, and sin in our hearts isolates us from God. And just like leprosy, which requires an intense multi-drug therapy to cure, we in our own strength have no ability to make sin go away. Try as we might to hide it or remove it, the stain of sin remains present. And just as God provided mercy to Miriam by removing her leprosy, so she could be reunited with her family, Jesus’ shed blood cleans His chosen ones’ hearts of sin so they can be reunited with their heavenly Father.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Numbers 12. God used Miriam powerfully in Moses’ life. She is the one who preserved his life as an infant, and made it possible for Moses’ true mother to become his nurse. She also led the singing of the first psalm we find recorded in the Scriptures (Ex 15). God does not deal lightly with her rebellion, yet at the same time, shows great mercy by answering Moses’ prayer to heal his sister.

Teaching the lesson:

A: Review – the building of the tabernacle

B: Bible verse memory activity

C. Story

D. Additional activity