



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for August 16, 2009  
Released on Wednesday, August 12, 2009**

**"Disobeying God's Command"**

**Lesson Text: Numbers 20:1-13.**

**Background Scripture: Numbers 20:1-13.**

**Memory Verse:** "The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (**Numbers 20:12**).

**Numbers 20:1-13**

- 1** Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.
- 2** And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.
- 3** And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord!
- 4** And why have ye brought up the congregation of the Lord into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?
- 5** And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.
- 6** And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the Lord appeared unto them.
- 7** And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,
- 8** Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.
- 9** And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him.
- 10** And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?
- 11** And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.
- 12** And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.
- 13** This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the Lord, and he was sanctified in them.

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Help the children understand that when God tells us to do something, He wants us to do just what He says.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. God always knows how to take care of every need.
2. It is important to obey what God tells us to do.
3. It is important to obey God's instructions completely.

### **PLANNING LESSON AIDS**

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of Moses hitting the rock.

For Helping to Remember, outline the letters "A-L-L" on a piece of paper, and make a copy for each student. Bring crayons or markers.

Make a copy of crossword puzzle lesson activity for each child. This activity will allow them to remember key facts from the lesson and the memory verse.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES**

Time: about 1405 B.C.

Place: Kadesh

When we have a legitimate need, there is a right way and a wrong way to seek to meet it. In this lesson we see two wrong ways. The people complained against their leader. That was wrong.

Moses began the right way—by seeking God's solution. His problem was that after God gave him the solution, he allowed his anger to take over and ignored some important parts of God's instructions.

God told him to take his staff and gather the people before the rock. With his brother, Aaron, he did that. God told him, "Speak to the rock, and water will come out." At that point, Moses seems to have allowed his anger to take over. He spoke roughly to the people, calling them rebels. God did not tell him to do that. Moses took credit for what was about to happen, saying, "Must we fetch you water out of this rock?" (Numbers 20:10). He hit the rock instead of speaking to it. He even hit it twice.

In His mercy, God still gave them water and met the immediate need of the people, but He was displeased with Moses' disobedience. Moses' response was not right.

### **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

Randy's mother told him to pick up his toys. Randy began doing it. He picked up two or three and put them away. Then he saw a blanket on the chair. *It would be easier to just cover up those toys*, Randy thought. So he unfolded the blanket and spread it over the toys.

When his mother came in, she was not happy. Randy had covered his toys. But had he obeyed? No. His mother had not told him to cover the toys but to pick them up. Randy was in trouble.

In the Bible, God's leader Moses got in trouble with God.

### **TELLING THE LESSON**

God's people were in the desert and did not find water to drink. That is a big problem—a hot place, many people, many animals, and no water.

The people should have asked God what to do. God had shown that He wanted to help His people. Instead, they just complained.

Moses started by doing the right thing. He went to the place of worship to seek God's help. God knew their problem, and he told Moses what to do.

There were three things Moses was to do. He was to take his staff, which was like a walking stick. He was to gather the people in front of a certain rock. He was to speak to the rock. God promised that water would come out.

Moses did the first thing right. He took his staff with him. He did the second thing right. He gathered the people in front of the rock. His brother, Aaron, helped him. Only one thing was left. What was he supposed to do to the rock? (Yes, he was supposed to speak to it.)

Moses knew that, but he was getting angry. He scolded the people, calling them rebels. He began to speak as if he were the one who had power to get water out of the rock. He said, "Must we fetch you water out of this rock?" (Num. 20:10). Then, instead of speaking to the rock, he hit it! (Show Moses hitting the rock.) He hit it not just once but twice! He did not do what God had told him to do.

God knew the people were very thirsty; so He was good to them. He still gave them water to drink—for them and for their animals. God met their need, but Moses was in trouble because he had disobeyed the Lord. He had only obeyed part way, and that is the same as disobeying.

God told Moses what his punishment would be. God said that Moses had not obeyed and had not given God the credit for providing the water they needed. Therefore he would not go with them into the Promised Land.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

God wants us to obey Him completely, not just part way. Let us ask God to help us do that.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Let the children read the word "all." Ask them how much of what God tells us we should obey. (All of it.) Let them color the word. Talk with them some more about obeying all that God tells us. Obeying only part of what we are commanded is the same in God's eyes as not obeying at all. To be pleasing to Him, we must simply trust Him and follow with all our hearts.

### **EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE**

**"The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not ... ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them" (Numbers 20:12).**

These words were spoken by God to Moses and Aaron after Moses hit the rock twice instead of speaking to it. God told Moses what he did wrong. He did not believe God enough to obey Him. If he had believed God, he would have spoken to the rock as God told him to do.

God also told Moses what his punishment would be. He would not be permitted to lead the people into the Promised Land. He would never set one foot on the land God was going to give them.

It was a hard punishment! Moses had looked forward to leading the people into that land. Later, things happened just as God had said. Moses died just before the people entered the land. He had not obeyed the Lord in everything.

**PRAYER:**

Heavenly Father, may we always be thankful to You for who You are! Thank You for helping us through the challenges we face. May we always trust and have faith in You and Your promises, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:**

Next week's lesson is "Obeying God's Command" and tells how Moses commanded the Israelites to teach their children to obey God's commands. Study Deuteronomy 6:1-9.

**LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

Willie Ferrell

Jesus Is All Ministries

[www.jesusisall.com](http://www.jesusisall.com)

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE LESSON ACTIVITY:**

**“Disobeying God’s Command” Numbers 20:1–13.**

A F P N S P E A K Y X C N D J  
A H E V I H B D F L O C B C Y  
R E T A W Z M I V N K P F X U  
O Z O Q H O T K G I S R A E L  
N Z M P S C J R N N F J B S Y  
J S S E N R E D L I W T D E X  
Y W S A L G X P O M R T E V A  
O C S Z A C A U M F P D D I X  
S H G T Q M A X G Y D A N L G  
Q R I L G D U N G O Y W A E X  
X O E M O O O E R R A J M W Q  
N S Z B R R I I P E Z S M N D  
I D I O E D Y W W M B K O D E  
Q R C X Z L S Z H A C A C O P  
T K R O D F S S E Y E E T G X

AARON

DIE

EVIL

GOD

REBELS

SANCTIFY

TABERNACLE

ZIN

COMMANDED

DRINK

EYES

ISRAEL

ROCK

SMOTE

WATER

CONGREGATION

EGYPT

GLORY

MOSES

ROD

SPEAK

WILDERNESS

*22 words are in the puzzle.*

**CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION:**

**"Disobeying God's Command" Numbers 20:1-13.**

A + + N S P E A K Y + C + + +  
A + E + I + + + F + O + + + +  
R E T A W Z M I + N + + + + +  
O + O + + O T K G I S R A E L  
N + M + S C + R N + + + + + +  
+ S S E N R E D L I W + D E +  
+ + S A L G + + + + R T E V +  
+ + S + A C + + + + P D D I +  
+ + G T + + A + + Y + + N L +  
+ R I L + + + N G + + + A + +  
+ O E + O + + E R + + + M + +  
N + + B R R I + + E + + M + +  
+ + + O E D Y + + + B + O D +  
+ + C + + L + + + + + A C O +  
+ K R O D + S S E Y E + T G +

(Over, Down, Direction)  
AARON (1, 1, S)  
COMMANDED (13, 14, N)  
CONGREGATION (12, 1, SW)  
DIE (6, 13, NE)  
DRINK (12, 8, NW)  
EGYPT (8, 11, NE)  
EVIL (14, 6, S)  
EYES (11, 15, W)  
GLORY (3, 9, SE)  
GOD (14, 15, N)  
ISRAEL (10, 4, E)  
MOSES (7, 3, SW)  
REBELS (2, 10, SE)  
ROCK (5, 12, SW)  
ROD (3, 15, E)  
SANCTIFY (3, 8, NE)  
SMOTE (3, 6, N)  
SPEAK (5, 1, E)  
TABERNACLE (13, 15, NW)  
WATER (5, 3, W)  
WILDERNESS (11, 6, W)  
ZIN (6, 3, NW)