

Sunday morning
teaching plan

Date:
25th May

TITLE:	Korah's Rebellion. Numbers 16
THEME:	Recognising and respecting God's calling. Being content with God
AIM:	How can we be sure God's call on a life is right. What if we can do better?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The people of Israel have escaped Egypt and have been travelling in the wilderness for a long time. On several occasions they have disobeyed God and grumbled at their life. God has both punished and shown mercy to Israel, despite being disrespected by the people. Korah was Levite, chosen by God to serve in the Tabernacle, to look after the tent and all the articles for worship. A privileged and important position. He was dissatisfied with the role and wanted more. He wanted Aaron's job, a priest. He wanted to be centre stage. He saw himself as better than those God had chosen! God had other ideas!

WARM UP

Watch video clip: What is the message of the song /scene being played out?

Question: Why do you think people get dissatisfied with the things they have and want more?

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1

You can either read Numbers 16 together (it is very long) and /or watch this 4 minute video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGn8T6WcQbA>

1. Why was Korah dissatisfied with his role in life? What was his role? Was it important?
2. Why did he think Moses had "gone too far"?
3. What had Korah forgotten about the past?
4. Do you think the other rebels would have rebelled if it were not for Korah?
5. Can you think of a time you have been dissatisfied with something? How did you deal with it?

Key teaching point:

Korah was in a privileged position. He had an important role, given to him by God. He, along with others, was caring for God's tabernacle. He saw Moses' role and wanted to be like him, have a similar role. He was jealous of how God had blessed Moses with a role, but he could not see that God had blessed him too. In truth the whole community was holy, not just Moses, but Korah had forgotten how God had chosen them and rescued them. When someone gets dissatisfied, it is common for them to moan to others and build up a following of dissatisfied people, who otherwise would not be grumbling!

Activity 2 Read Numbers 16:19-21 then Numbers 16:28-30

1. Why do you think God was so angry with Korah? After all he wanted to be a priest. Isn't that a good thing?
2. Who was Korah disrespecting? Moses as leader, or God?
3. What does God do to show everyone that Korah had disrespected Him?
4. Was this harsh?

Key teaching points: Korah could not see that God had chosen him for a special task, he wanted someone else's role. He was showing that he did not trust God's judgement. He thought he knew better than God! God had appointed Moses and shown the people through miracles that Moses was His man. Korah challenged this. To our modern day thinking, Korah's punishment seems harsh. Why not just tell him off or lock him up. Well there were no prisons. God needed to remind the rest of the community that God could be trusted. His severe treatment of Korah and his followers demonstrates not only His power, but Moses authority to lead them. They had to obey, in order to be saved ! If they wanted to get out of the wilderness they HAD to TRUST GOD.

Activity 3

1. What are the things that make us rebel against God and doubt His judgment?
2. How do we know God has our best interests at heart? Look up the following:
Deuteronomy 31:8 Isaiah 46:4 Romans 5:8 Romans 8:28 I Peter 5:6-7
3. What do we do if we think we have rebelled and sinned against God?
I John 1:9 James 5:16

Key teaching point: Our own desires can lead us to rebel against God. We must always seek to obey His commands because He cares for us. After all, Christ died to rescue us from God's judgment. We should regularly confess our sin and seek to be obedient to Him.

TAKEAWAY

Reflection time:

Use the colouring sheet as a meditation tool to help reflect on the need to trust and obey God

EXTRA INFORMATION