

LESSON 39

Miriam

NUMBERS 12



BIBLE TRUTH

MOSES MEDIATED ON BEHALF OF MIRIAM

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: water-soluble black marker or ink pad, paper, moist towelettes for cleanup, puppet

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 39)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20-30 MIN

Coloring Page 39

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Memorize Psalm 139:4

Who Do We Complain About?

SUPPLIES: picture of a current, popular toy; picture of an amusement park

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60-75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will learn how Miriam and Aaron spoke out against Moses.

Tell the class that you are going to do a skit and you need a volunteer. Pick a child who you think would do well in front of the class, but don’t pick anyone who shouts out or doesn’t calmly raise their hands. (Those children might be better left behind to share how they felt when they were not chosen.)

Bring a chair to the front of the class and have your volunteer sit down facing you. Tell the class that the child represents Moses. Then explain that God called Moses to lead the people out of Egypt. Unlike the other prophets that God spoke through visions, God met with Moses face-to-face. Thank your volunteer and ask him to sit down.

Then explain that you need another volunteer. Pick the same child again and see if anyone tells you that you already picked him once.

Ask them how it felt not to be picked and, instead, to see the same person get picked twice in a row. See if you can help them recognize feelings of jealousy, feelings that arise when you want what somebody else has. God was always picking Moses to speak to and use for miracles. That made some people around him very jealous, even his sister.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 39, “Miriam,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- What happened in this story?
- What was Miriam and Aaron’s sin?
(They spoke against Moses.)

- How did they get caught?

(The Lord heard their words.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- What is leprosy?

(a terrible skin disease that is easily spread to others)

- How did Miriam get leprosy so fast?

(The Lord allowed her to be inflicted as a punishment for her complaining.)

- What did Moses do for Miriam?

(Moses prayed to the Lord for her to be healed. Moses forgave her and did not hold her words against her.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 39—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How do you think Miriam felt when she discovered her leprosy?

(Guide them toward saying that she may have felt sad or fearful.)

- What did Miriam learn about God?

(God is so powerful that he hears all we say.)

Share Psalm 139:4 (NIV) with the children. “Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.”

Where Is Jesus? _____

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Philippians 2:1–11

Consider the pride of Aaron and Miriam and the humility of Moses who God said was the most humble (meek) man "on the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3). Moses, whose life and ministry is a picture of Jesus, is also a picture of Jesus in his humility. No one ever humbled himself more than Jesus, the Son of God, who came to earth and died on the cross for our sins.

Consider the humble response of Moses when Aaron and Miriam came before God in the tent of meeting and complained against him. Moses did not object to what they said about him, and when Miriam was struck with leprosy, Moses interceded with God for her. In the same way, Jesus prayed for those who mocked and crucified him. Jesus said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

- God hears every one of our words. How should that help us to be careful of what we say?

Memorize Psalm 139:4

"Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord" (Psalm 139:4 NIV)

Take time to help the children memorize this verse and connect it to the story of Miriam.

Who Do We Complain About?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ picture of a current, popular toy
- ✓ picture of an amusement park

Ask the children to share where people today might struggle with the sin of jealousy. Hold up a picture of a popular toy. Ask if a child might be jealous if her brother or sister was given this toy by her uncle but she didn't get anything. Hold up a picture of an amusement park. Ask if a child might be jealous if her brother or sister was invited to go here by a cousin but he had to stay home.

Ask the children who they are tempted to be jealous of and complain about. Remind them that God heard Aaron and Miriam's complaining words, and explain to the children how important it is to remember that God hears all our words too. He even knows the jealousy in our hearts before it is spoken.

Share the gospel with the children. The only way for us to be free from the same sin as Aaron and Miriam is for the Lord to change our hearts. This is possible because Jesus died that we might be free from sin. We will all make mistakes but Jesus took the punishment for all our sin.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

LESSON 39 - MIRIAM

