

MOSES DISOBEYED GOD

Moses sinfully judged God.

THE STORY: NUMBERS 20:1-5

MONDAY

**The people
grumbled against
Moses and Aaron.**

The people grumbled against Moses and Aaron again. Israel's complaints against Moses and Aaron are recorded here in Numbers 20. When the Israelites ran out of water they assembled themselves against Moses and complained that their desert location was evil. The Israelites refused to trust God to bring them through the desert to the fruitful Promised Land and instead they longed for the fruits of Egypt—the place of their captivity! Rather than considering that their suffering might be their own fault, they blamed Moses and, in effect, they blamed God. Even though the desert was a difficult place, God dwelt with them there. To call the place where God dwelt with them evil was an insult against God.

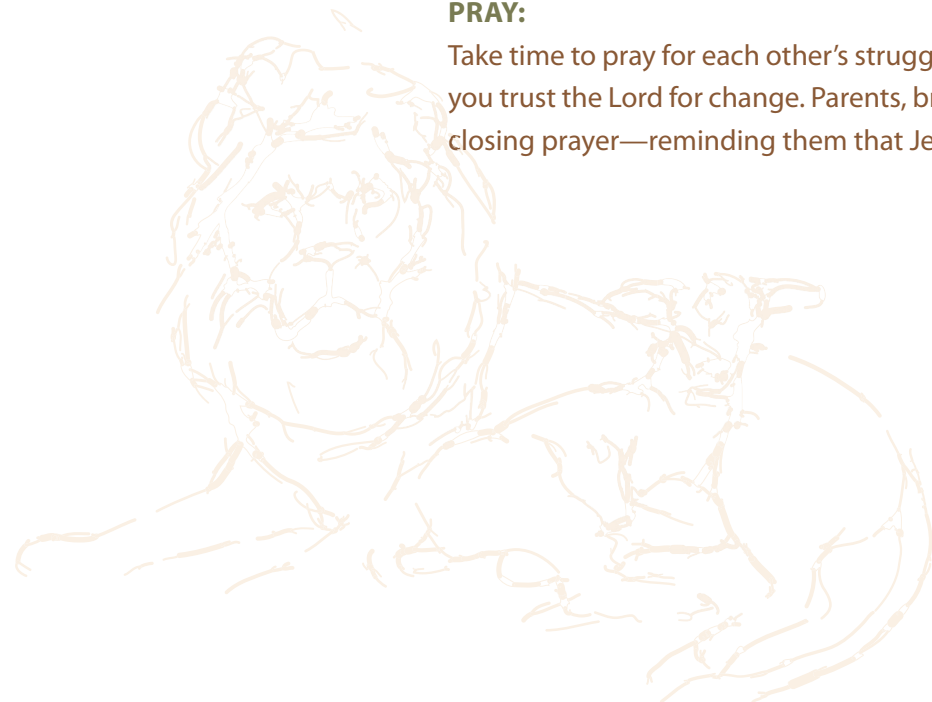
TALK ABOUT IT:

Why might it be easy for us to feel self-righteous about Israel's behavior? *(They failed to learn from their mistakes and kept doing the same wrong things again and again.)*

Aren't we a lot like Israel? *(Yes, we often repeat the same sins over and over again.)* Parents, help your children identify patterns of repetitive sinful behavior in their own lives. You may consider confessing your own struggles to the whole family where appropriate.

PRAY:

Take time to pray for each other's struggles with sinful patterns and ask God to help you trust the Lord for change. Parents, bring your children around to the Gospel in a closing prayer—reminding them that Jesus died to break sin's hold on us.





Moses went to the Tent of Meeting and God spoke

Moses went to the Tent of Meeting and God spoke. Moses and Aaron left the crowd and went to the Tent of Meeting where the glory of the Lord appeared to them. Unlike many other passages where Moses interceded on behalf of the people, all he could do in this instance was to fall before the Lord. Though the people called the desert place evil, God intended to show them that it was a holy place because His presence was still with them—even in the desert. God instructed Moses to speak to the rock and when he did, the Lord provided water for the people and their livestock out of it.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did God's words to Moses demonstrate His incredible mercy? *(Even without Moses asking, God offered to provide water for the Israelites in spite of their grumbling and complaining.)*

Did Moses tell God what the people's needs were or did God already know? *(God already knew. Matthew 6:8 tells us that our Father knows what we need even before we ask!)*

How does it encourage you to know that God knows our needs even before we ask? *(Draw out your children.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His amazing unlimited knowledge which enables him to fully know what we need, even before we ask. Thank God for being a faithful God and Father.





Where is Jesus?

Instead of speaking to the rock to draw forth the water, Moses struck the rock in anger. Here we see that Moses was an imperfect, fallible savior who was not without sin. Because of his fallen state, Moses was unable to stand in the gap for the people and mediate with God on their behalf. Jesus is the only perfect mediator.

Unlike Moses, the imperfect mediator, Jesus, though tempted, did not sin. His blood covers all our sins and He continually stands before God the Father, testifying to our redemption and interceding for us.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is Jesus a better mediator than Moses? *(Jesus was tempted but did not sin.)*

Why is it helpful for each of us to remember that Jesus was tempted? *(Because Jesus faced the same temptations as we do, we can be confident that He understands our struggles.)*

In which circumstances are you most likely to give into temptation? *(Have the family take turns sharing their thoughts and then end with prayer together.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help each member of your family fight against temptation and trust the Lord in difficult situations.





Moses disobeyed and struck the rock.

Moses disobeyed and struck the rock. Moses struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it as God had commanded him. He struck it because he was still angered by the people's sin and probably angry at God for making him endure a stubborn people. To add to this sinful choice, Moses and Aaron attributed the provision of water to themselves, saying, "Shall we bring water for you?" The staff that Moses used to strike the rock was the staff of judgment. This was no simple sin of anger; Moses was rebelling against God and misrepresenting God to the people. Rather than bringing God's message, Moses delivered his own. He put himself in the place of God and in anger brought the rod of judgment down upon the rock (the rock represents Christ—see 1 Corinthians 10:4). Without realizing it, Moses was just like the people of Jesus' day who struck and crucified Him in their anger. In the end, God corrected Moses' serious error by prohibiting him from leading the people into the Promised Land (Numbers 20:12). By correcting Moses in this way, God shows us that no amount of good deeds can save us. Even Moses, the great leader, needed a Savior.

TALK ABOUT IT:

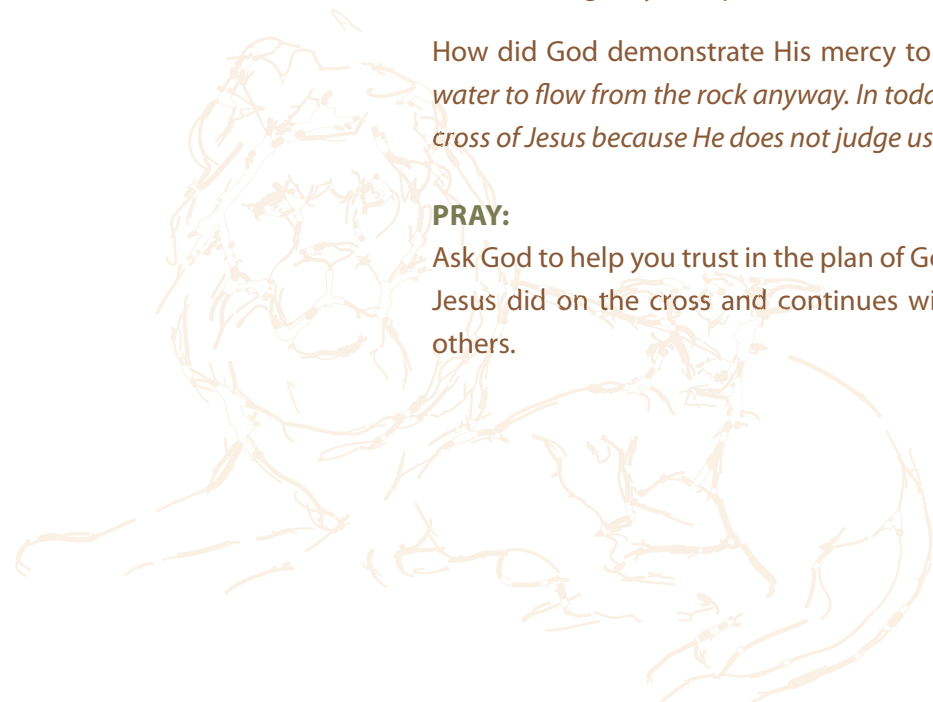
Why didn't Moses obey God? *(Moses didn't trust in God's plan. In his anger he struck the rock and called the people rebels. God desired to show mercy to Israel by providing water for them without a word of judgment but Moses abandoned God's plan, wanting to rebuke the people instead.)*

How can we fall into the same pattern of sin in our lives? *(Children often get angry at one another. Older siblings are particularly vulnerable to adding their judgments on top of those brought by their parents.)*

How did God demonstrate His mercy to Israel in spite of Moses' sin? *(God caused water to flow from the rock anyway. In today's world, God shows us mercy through the cross of Jesus because He does not judge us according to what we deserve.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you trust in the plan of God for our lives. His plan begins with what Jesus did on the cross and continues with us showing mercy, not judgment, to others.





On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus is the Anointed One mentioned in Daniel 9. Though interpretations of this passage differ, Jesus is referred to as God's Anointed One in other passages (Acts 4:26, Psalm 2:2). Because of the gospel language elsewhere in Daniel 9, we can know with reasonable certainty that Jesus is the Anointed One spoken of here.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What clues in the passage point to Jesus as the Anointed One? *(Daniel wrote that there will be an end to sin and atonement for iniquity, which results in an everlasting righteousness. We can be certain that this points to Jesus since Jesus is God's only plan to atone for and destroy sin forever.)*

How was Jesus "cut off" as referenced in Daniel 9:26? *(During the crucifixion, when the Father poured out His wrath upon Jesus for sin, Jesus was forsaken or "cut off" from relationship with God by His Father. He was also "cut off" from life, having died upon the cross.)*

How should remembering the work and suffering of Christ affect our lives? *(We should never allow ourselves to become so familiar with the work and suffering of Christ that we lose our gratefulness for Jesus' atoning death on the cross.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus, which resulted in everlasting righteousness for those who place their trust in Him.

