

MIRIAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NUMBERS 12



The STORY

Read the story below taken from Numbers 12.

Miriam and Aaron became ungrateful. They spoke against Moses because he had married a woman who was not an Israelite. The Lord heard their unkind words. The Lord called to all three of them: Aaron, Miriam, and Moses. The Lord came down in a pillar of cloud and called Aaron and Miriam to come forward. The Lord rebuked them for speaking against Moses. When the cloud lifted, Miriam's body was covered with leprosy. Moses asked the Lord to heal her. The Lord said he would heal her but Miriam had to stay outside the camp for seven days. Then Miriam was allowed to come back.

***Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Miriam with leprosy. Engage the children by asking:

- How do you think Miriam felt when she discovered her leprosy? (Elicit that she may have felt sad or fearful.)
- What did Miriam learn about God? (God is so powerful He hears all we say.) Share Psalm 139:4 with the children. "Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord."
- Knowing that God hears every one of our words, how should that help us to be careful of what we say?

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children 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.)

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.

Full of pride, Miriam opposed Moses and was struck with leprosy. Aaron appealed to Moses, and Moses in turn cried out to the Lord. As before, the Lord heard the mediation of Moses and offered healing to Miriam after seven days outside the camp. Moses acted as a type of Christ, standing in the gap before God. In addition, Moses modeled a humility more than any other man on earth (see Numbers 12:3). Moses' humility points to the humility of Christ. Moses did not speak out when insulted, but instead interceded for his sister. Jesus did not return insult for insult but instead, interceded for those who spoke against Him.

Moses could offer no payment for Miriam's sin. Instead he appealed to the mercy of God. God's mercy was made possible through the work of the Christ who was yet to come. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross paid for Miriam's sin and made it possible for Miriam to be welcomed back into camp.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

