



### 4.3.11/Numbers 20:1-13

#### Materials Needed

None

#### Read Numbers 20:1-13

"In the first month the whole Isrealite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried. Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. They quarreled with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! Why did you bring the Lord's community into this desert, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!" Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord said to Moses, "Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink." So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?" Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Isrealites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them." There were the waters of Meribah, where the Isrealites quarreled with the Lord and where he showed himself holy among them." -NIV

#### Discussion Questions:

1. In this passage, we can tell that Moses is stressed and angry. He has been leading the Isrealites through the desert for FORTY years, his sister, Miriam, has recently died, and the community that he is leading is complaining about a lack of food and water for themselves and their animals. They are not trusting that God will take care of them. There has been a time for all of us where we have been impatient and angry about something, even though the Bible tells us to be slow to anger. What kind of bad things can happen for us (and for Moses) when we are angry? *We say things that hurt people. We attack people rather than encourage them. We do not have control over ourselves so we are more tempted to rush into sin-doing and saying things we don't really mean.*

2. God loves the Isrealites and would never let them go thirsty. So in His faithfulness, God tells Moses to take the staff and to go in front of the people and do what with the rock? *(Encourage the children to look in their Bibles if they have them.) God told Moses to SPEAK to the rock. If he does this, water will pour from it and the people and the animals can drink. What does Moses do to the rock when he goes in front of the people? He HITS it twice with his staff. Water pours out of the rock and everyone can drink. Why is this such a miracle? Because we all know that rocks do not naturally provide water. God then speaks to Moses and Aaron and says that they "did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Isrealites." In what way(s) did Moses and Aaron not honor God? God told Moses to speak to the rock but instead, Moses hit the rock twice. Moses disobeyed God which is not honoring. When Moses hit the rock, he made it appear as if HE had something to do with this miracle. If he had instead done what God told him to do, all of the glory would have been God's because the water would have appeared out of nowhere. Because Moses was angry at the time, he did not see clearly that his pride was getting in the way of letting the Isrealites know that God ALONE was providing for their needs.*

3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:4 to the children. "They drank from that spiritual rock that followed them; and that rock was Christ." Many times in the New Testament, Jesus is called the "Living Water." In the story of Moses, God said that he only needed to SPEAK to the rock and the water would rush out. Jesus, who destroyed sin and restores relationship with God the Father through His complete work on the cross, is also a rock. Just as Moses only needed to speak to the rock, WE as humans only need



to speak to Jesus, our rock, and ask for God's forgiveness. Moses hit the rock, implying that his actions helped make the water rush out, when he really had nothing to do with it. In the same way, we can do nothing to earn or deserve God's forgiveness. Jesus did it all. Just as Moses was trying to take some of the credit for the water from the rock, we too take credit for things that have nothing to do with us. What are some of the things in your life that you take credit for that you should really give glory to God for? *Examples can include: Getting good grades on a test-God gave you your intelligence! Playing a great game of soccer-God gave you a strong body and quick legs to run fast.*

### **Reflection/Prayer**

Lead the children in prayer (or allow them to add their own if they feel comfortable) in a prayer of commitment to obey the Lord in all of the details of their lives, being careful never to take the blessings that God gives to us for granted. Encourage them to thank Jesus for saving them and to remember that God's promises are always true. He is always faithful, and our lives reflect our thankfulness when we are obedient to His commands. For those children that have not yet said yes to the Good News of Jesus, encourage them to talk to their parents or another adult that they trust (even their Leader!). Pray that we would remember in every aspect of our lives that God deserves all of the glory. From the breath in our lungs, to the talents we have been given, to the place we live, our entire lives are a gift from our God. God chooses to use sinful people like Moses and like you and us to carry out His beautiful works. Allow that thought to stay with you the rest of the week: All of the glory belongs to God and we are blessed to be a part of His beautiful plan!