

NUMBERS 16-21

WEEK IN REVIEW + FAMILY GUIDE



WEEK IN REVIEW

This section of Numbers is marked again by rebellion and consequences for that rebellion. The people previously rebelled when they refused to trust God when it came to the Promised Land. Now we see a second cycle of rebellion, this time against Israel's leaders. A man named Korah, the great-grandson of Levi, decided to gather 250 Israelite men who were in positions of leadership to rebel against Moses. They questioned his authority and believed they were just as great as Moses. They were **prideful**, which meant they were putting themselves first thinking they knew better than God and the leadership over them. God, in His wrath, opens the ground and swallows up the rebels. The people then complained and a plague was sent amongst them for their sin. **Sin** is anything that goes against God's Word or will in any way. While this may seem harsh, we know God is marked by both justice and mercy, and sin always leads to death.

Following the rebellion, God gives a sign to the Israelites. Moses was to take a staff from the leaders of each of the twelve tribes to see which one would sprout. Aaron's was the only one that sprouted, which confirmed that God had chosen him to lead as the high-priest. The tables then turn, and Moses faces consequences for His disobedience. Moses strikes a rock for water instead of speaking to it, and the Lord tells him that because of his lack of trust, he would not be the one to lead the Israelites into the Land. This is a really big deal, and might seem unfair. Moses had led the people this far, and he was unable to receive what was promised. Ultimately, Moses was not above sin, and God did not need him to accomplish His purposes. Moses is not the hero of the story; God is.

The people return to their discontentment and complaining and their sin again doesn't go unpunished. The Lord sent venomous snakes, but He provides a way out. He tells Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." This story is referenced in the book of John. Jesus says, "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-16). Just as the Israelites had looked to the bronze serpent for their physical healing, we get to look to the cross of Christ for our spiritual healing.

FAMILY GUIDE

BIG IDEA:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sin always has consequences
KEY STORIES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Korah's rebellion● Aaron's staff sprouts● Moses strikes a rock for water● Bronze serpent
KEY VERSES:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Numbers 16:3<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ They came as a group to oppose Moses and Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! The whole community is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is with them. Why then do you set yourselves above the Lord's assembly?"● Numbers 20:12<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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 Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them."● Numbers 21:8<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Lord said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live."
PEOPLE/ WORDS TO KNOW:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pride<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Putting yourself first and thinking you know better than God● Sin<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Anything that goes against God's Word or will in any way

Reflection Questions

1.	What was the sin that took place at Korah's rebellion?
2.	What is pride? When is a time you have been prideful?
3.	What was the consequence for Moses' disobedience?
4.	How did God give a way out from the venomous snakes? How does this point to Jesus?