

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Interactive Sunday School Outline

TOPIC: Striking the Rock - The Temptations of Leadership

TEXT: Numbers 20:1-13

Instructions - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction - For several years, I had been the lead teacher for a regional Bible study conference. Although the preparation always created a logjam in my already too-busy schedule, I loved both the study and the satisfaction of passing on important truths in clear and concise ways. At one point it was decided that we needed to bring in several younger teachers so that they could gain valuable experience while also perhaps drawing in people from a younger age range. Great idea! That is, it was a great idea until I saw the new teachers' lesson plans—clearly inadequate! It was even worse when they taught. Gone was the clarity I had provided as these new teachers' less-than thorough preparation and inferior teaching skills were revealed. After I had been fuming in the back of the room during one session, a good friend took me aside on the break. "This isn't like you," he said. "Of course, it is," I replied. "I'm concerned about quality." "That may be, but I've never seen you be controlling before," he said with raised eyebrows. At that point, I took a walk and considered that perhaps I was overreacting and struggling with sharing leadership.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you think people enjoy about being in the lead? What happens when leaders begin to treat their position as a private possession?

2. Same song as before? What is the problem this time, and what are Israel's complaints (Vs. 1-5)? How appropriate was their complaints? Discuss.
3. The people of Israel continue to complain, Moses' anger flairs, and a seemingly minor transgression becomes the source of a life-changing event for both Moses and the nation (Numbers 20:1-13). Discuss.
4. Clearly life in the desert is not what Israel expected when they left Egypt. Why might slavery to Pharaoh seem preferable to freedom in the desert at this point? Discuss.
5. How has following God turned out to be confusing, disappointing, or different in some ways than what Christians might be expecting? What, if anything, can Christians learn from those unfulfilled expectations?
6. In light of Moses' struggle with anger, it is striking to note that God describes himself to Moses and the nation as "slow to anger, abound in in love and faithfulness" (Exodus 34:6). What character issues do you think a Christian leader could be struggling with, and how could such affect the church?
7. Moses and Aaron again find themselves face-down before the Lord in yet another leadership crisis (Vs. 6-8). What are the available resources that Leaders could use to overcome such challenges in the church?
8. Because Moses strikes the rock twice rather than speaking to it, God forbids him to enter the Promised Land (Vs. 11-12). Why do you think God treats his faithful servant so strictly?
9. How is Moses' action (striking the rock) a lack of trust in God? Explain. What would Moses have learned from this experience? What would Israel have learned from this experience?
10. Obedience to God and representing him well to his people is serious and important. What would godly anger management look like? How would it make a difference in the church?