

Church of God Sunday School

MOSES SINS AGAINST GOD

Numbers 20

The Israelites had crossed over the Red Sea and wandered in the wilderness many years. When they began to complain and disbelieve God, He had made them wander in the wilderness when they could have gone right into the land of Canaan (see Numbers 14:26-34). Forty years Israel had to wander around in the wilderness, until the complainers had died and their children were grown.

Once again, the people began to complain. Only this time the grown children were complaining. Why were they complaining? They had no water to drink. They had not learned that God would provide for them, even though He had kept their clothes and shoes from wearing out for those many years (see Deuteronomy 29:5).

The people gathered together and went to Moses with their complaints: "Would God that we had died when our brethren died . . . why have ye brought up the congregation . . . into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink." On and on went their complaints!

Moses and Aaron went to the tabernacle and fell on their faces at the door of the tabernacle. God spoke to Moses there. He said, "Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and *speak* ye unto the rock [a certain rock] before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink." So Moses took the rod, and he and Aaron went to do as God had said.

But Moses did *not* do something that was very important to God! Moses and Aaron gathered the

people together, yes—but Moses did not magnify God or lift up His name, or sanctify Him in the eyes of the people as he should have done, because he was upset with the people. Moses may have been impatient and angry with the people for complaining, but he still should have glorified God and done exactly as God said.

Moses was supposed to speak to the rock. He did not speak to the rock! Instead of speaking to the rock, Moses spoke to the congregation. He said, "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? [Neither Moses nor Aaron could, in their own strength, bring water out of a rock!]"

Then, Moses lifted his hand and *struck* the rock—not once but twice. Water did come out of the rock! There was enough water to quench the thirst of that whole multitude of people and their animals! But God called that place of the water Meribah: the water of strife, because the Israelites had contended, or argued, with Him.

And then Moses had not obeyed God! Moses **SINNED!** *God's own chosen leader* of the Israelite people *committed sin by not doing what he knew to do!* Moses did not put God's Word and will first. Moses did not follow *every* Word of God! You would think that Moses would not have disobeyed!

Moses knew that God is *omnipotent*, or all-powerful. His great and mighty power had been seen time and time again by Moses. He knew how much God hates disobedience, or sin. He also knew God punishes the one who sins. But just knowing these things did not keep Moses from sinning. Moses could think for himself; Moses had a will of his own. Moses' mind was not programmed like a computer is. Moses was not a robot.

Moses did not take time to think how he might reap for his actions or he would not have behaved as he did.



Moses' own impatience with the people led him to sin. He acted too quickly. If we do things our own way instead of doing things God's way, we will get into trouble every time!

Since Moses did not obey God in all that he knew to do, he had to reap God's judgment and be punished. God told Moses that because he had disobeyed, he would not get to enter the Promised Land with the Israelite people! At the proper time, Moses could view the land of Canaan, but he would have to die on this side of the Jordan River.

The Lord punished Aaron too. He also knew what he should have done. Before he even got to see the Promised Land, he had to die in Mount Hor. Eleazar, his son, was chosen by God to take his place.



Do you do *everything* Jesus tells you to do? Or, do you do what you want to do instead? You should do what Jesus wants you to do instead of what you want.

Do you mind your mother and dad? If what they tell you to do is good, then you should always obey them. Ephesians 6:1 says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Colossians 3:20 says, ". . . obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." Jesus, as a young boy, minded His parents! (See Luke 2:51.) Jesus wants you to be good too.

Psalm 66:18 says, "If I regard [allow any] iniquity [sin or wickedness] in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." If you want Jesus to hear your prayers, you must do what is right. You can only obey Jesus and your parents and live right with Jesus' help.

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**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice"* (1 Samuel 15:22).  
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**On the next page is a maze filled with bad choices.
Match the bad choices below with the correct picture.**



Worldly Music



Love of Money



Using Drugs



Smoking

Fighting

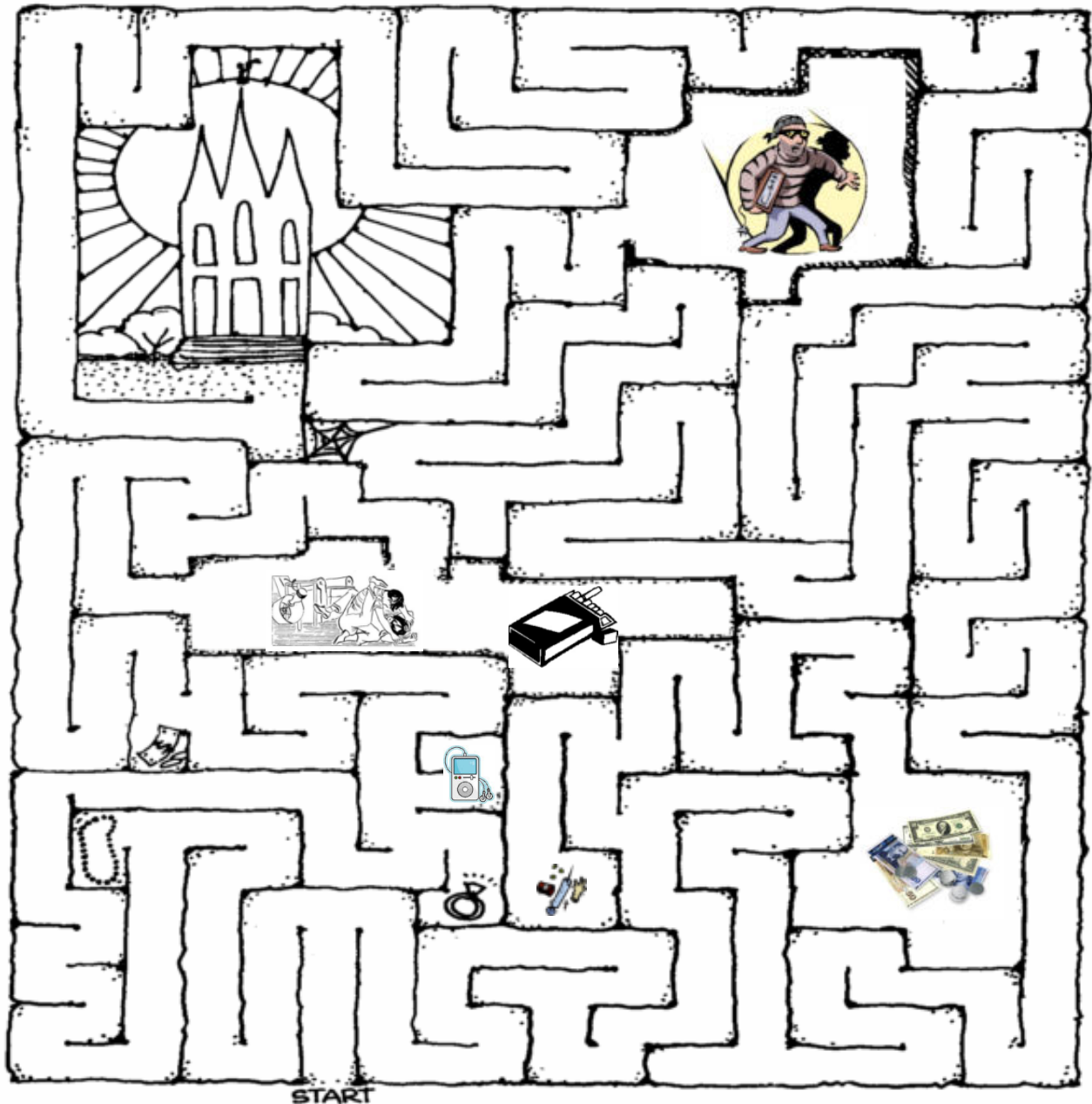


Stealing



Can you think of some other bad choices? _____

**Moses Made a Bad Choice.
He Didn't Follow God's Instructions,
and That Got Him Into Trouble.
What Choices Are You Making?
Follow the Correct Path to Get to Heaven.**



The Path You Choose . . .



Moses Disobeyed God's Command