

## Failures and the Future

Murmuring and complaining can become a way of life if you practice it long enough. In the book of Numbers the children of Israel are still in the wilderness, still murmuring and complaining against God, Moses and Aaron. This is a fantastic read with many miracles both in dealing with sin and with conquering the land. Now, let's play a game to help drive home the lessons we have learned in the second half of the book of Numbers.

## Say it, Play it, Pray it!

<b>Objectives:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Role-play Numbers 16 to understand how the murmuring of the children of Israel displeased the Lord and how their sin had a consequence; and, to teach ourselves to be praisers and not complainers</li> <li>b. have fun with your family</li> </ul>
<b>Number of Players:</b>	<p>3 or more</p> <p>Narrator, Moses, Aaron, Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and children of Israel (if you have more than 7 people, the extras can play the children of Israel, some in Moses' camp and some in Korah's camp) (If you have less than 7 people, have someone play both the Moses and Aaron parts and have one person play Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.) Really get into your roles and have fun with this.</p>
<b>Length:</b>	30 minutes or more.
<b>Set up:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Read Numbers 16 aloud.</li> <li>2) Assign parts to everyone. At the very least, you will need a narrator, a Moses, and Korah.</li> <li>3) Arrange the room into the camp of Israel. You can get as elaborate as you like. You will be playing out the scene of Korah, Dathan and Abiram and 250 of the children of Israel who were swallowed up into the Earth. If you have a place in your house (stairs) or yard where the ones who are swallowed can disappear, that would be ideal. You could use a large sheet or cover to mimic the earth swallowing them up.</li> <li>4) Arrange the people into two groups - Korah, Dathan, Abiram and their fellow complainers in one group, Moses, Aaron and the rest of the children of Israel in another.</li> <li>5) While the narrator reads the text, the players will act it out. With some speaking being done by Moses and Korah and others.</li> </ol>

## The Game

**Narrator:** Now Korah the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, with Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; and they arose up before Moses with some of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, representatives of the congregation, men of renown. They gathered together against Moses and Aaron, and said to them, (while he is reading, Korah and his followers should act out what is being read--Korah and his followers stomp into the presence of Moses)



# FAMILY STUDY

**Korah:** “You take too much upon yourselves, for all the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?”

**Narrator:** So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face; and he spoke to Korah and all his company saying

**Moses:** Tomorrow morning the Lord will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him. Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company; put fire in them and put incense in them before the Lord tomorrow, and it shall be that the man whom the Lord chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi! Hear now, you sons of Levi: Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to serve them; and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also? Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the Lord. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?

**Narrator:** And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said

**Dathan and Abiram:** We will not come up! Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us? Moreover you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!

**Narrator:** Then Moses was very angry, and said to the Lord

**Moses:** Do not respect their offering. I have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them

**Narrator:** and Moses said to Korah

**Moses:** Tomorrow you and all your company be present before the Lord--you and they, as well as Aaron. Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the Lord, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer.

**Narrator:** So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the congregation. And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying “Separate yourselves from among the congregation, that I may consume them in a moment.” Then they fell on their faces, and said

**Moses and Aaron:** O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and you be angry with all the congregation?”

**Narrator:** So the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak to the congregation, saying, ‘get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.’” Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. And he spoke to the congregation, saying

**Moses:** Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.



# FAMILY STUDY

**Narrator:** So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children, and Moses said

**Moses:** By this you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own will. If these men die naturally like all men, or if they are visited by the common fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord creates a new thing, and the earth opens its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected the Lord.

**Narrator:** Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking all these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men with Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.

## Discussion and prayer

Have a seat with everyone facing each other and allow each person to share what they felt in their role and anything they learned from their experience. Then take some time to pray for each other, remember to thank God for all he has provided.