

**Week 1 of May**  
God's Sovereign Choice

■ **Text:** Numbers 17:5~8 (May 1st Text)

■ **Bottom line:** God appoints leaders to lead the community in order in His will.

≡ **1. Prayer**

Thank you, God, for giving us the faith that worships you.

≡ **2. Praise**

Jesus, our King, come here.

≡ **3. The Word**

Read Numbers 17:5-8 together. (Read the verse 3 times)

\* Repeating the text in different translations helps us to understand the material deeply.

**<ESV>**

<sup>5</sup> And the staff of the man whom I choose shall sprout. Thus I will make to cease from me the grumbings of the people of Israel, which they grumble against you." <sup>6</sup> Moses spoke to the people of Israel. And all their chiefs gave him staffs, one for each chief, according to their fathers' houses, twelve staffs. And the staff of Aaron was among their staffs. <sup>7</sup> And Moses deposited the staffs before the Lord in the tent of the testimony. <sup>8</sup> On the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the staff of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds.

**<NASB>**

<sup>5</sup> And it will come about that the staff of the man whom I choose will sprout. So I will relieve Myself of the grumbings of the sons of Israel, who are grumbling against you." <sup>6</sup> So Moses spoke to the sons of Israel, and all their leaders gave him a staff, one for each leader, for their fathers' households, twelve staffs *in all*, with the staff of Aaron among their staffs. <sup>7</sup> Then Moses left the staffs before the Lord in the tent of the testimony. <sup>8</sup> Now on the next day Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, Aaron's staff for the house of Levi had sprouted and produced buds and bloomed with blossoms, and it yielded ripe almonds.

## Understanding the Text

Aaron is a priest appointed by God. God confirmed this to the people. The twelve rods with the names of the leaders of the twelve tribes were placed in front of the ark of the testimony, and the staff of the tribe of Levi had Aaron's name written on it. The next day, only Aaron's rod sprouted and ten rods were formed. We must acknowledge and respect the people God has established.

### Understanding the text for leaders

Even though the Israelites experienced God's great salvation through the Exodus, they constantly complained and complained. Finally, they rejected the leadership of Moses and Aaron. Korah of the tribe of Levi and Dathan, Abiram, and On of the tribe of Reuben joined forces to rebel against the leaders God had established. They were jealous of Moses and Aaron acting as leaders on behalf of the community. Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On, who were greedy for power, challenged the authority of Moses and Aaron. God judged those who challenged the authority of Moses and Aaron. The earth split open and swallowed up the leaders of the rebellion and everything that belonged to them. He confirmed who the priest He had chosen and ordained was. He made each tribe write the name of the representative on the staff, and Aaron's name on the staff of the tribe of Levi. The rods were placed in front of the ark of the testimony of God's presence, and the next day, only Aaron's rod sprouted, leaves and flowers bloomed, and the apricot (almond) fruit opened. God chose Aaron and made it clear that He was working through him. God raises up leaders and speaks and works through them to maintain order in the community.

## 4. Sharing

1) Which of the twelve rods would sprout from God? Whose wand actually sprouted? (verses 5, 8)

### Upper Grades

Of the twelve rods, whose rod was the one that sprouted, and what did it mean? (verses 5, 8)

### Lower Grades

Whose rod was the rod that sprouted after God chose it? (verse 8)

### Question Guide

Let us find out what God does in the first half of verse 5, and what happened on whose rod in verse 8. Imagine why it is special to sprout and bear fruit from a lifeless stick, and share about the amazing miracles God has performed.

### Commentary for Leaders

When Israel became a great nation and became influential, some people became greedy for power. Moses and Aaron were God's leaders. Those who challenged the leader God had set up and led the rebellion died under God's judgment. God took measures to prevent the rest of the people from grumbling and dying. He made it clear who the leader God had set up was through the supernatural miracle of life springing from the lifeless staff. Aaron was a priest in Israel whom God had ordained.

2) Who is the leader that God has set up over me to walk in the right way? Why is it important to obey the leader without rebellion?

### ■ Upper Grades

Who is the leader God has set up for me? Why is it important to obey our leaders?

### ■ Lower Grades

This Sunday, I would say to my Sunday school teacher and pastor, "I love you!" I hug him.

#### □ Question Guide

Share who the leaders (authorities) God has placed in your life. It could be a church teacher or pastor, or a parent. It could be a teacher or leader you meet at school or at work. Think about the reasons why you should follow their guidance and teachings, and share why it is beneficial to do so. If it is difficult to obey authority, feel free to share why it is difficult to obey authority and what you should do when it happens.

#### □ Commentary for Leaders

It is very important to recognize, respect, and obey the leaders God has established in the community. It is also an expression of faith in God's will, letting go of our personal feelings and opinions. We must acknowledge that God works by appointing leaders and that He has raised up leaders to maintain the order of the community. It is not necessary to have a lot of knowledge or possessions to become a leader. It is God who chooses and raises up the leaders (Romans 13:1~2). I want you to acknowledge that it is God who has raised up that leader, and to obey the authority that God has established is for the benefit of God's kingdom, your own benefit, and the benefit of the community.

### ≡ 5. Be grateful

Thank God for raising up leaders and maintaining order in our community.

### ≡ 6. Prayer

Thank you, God, for raising up leaders to make the community move in an orderly manner in churches, schools, and workplaces. Please let us obey You by looking at our leaders, respecting them, and following them, not on us.

- The family worship service ends with the Lord's Prayer.

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