

Nadab and Abihu

Leviticus 10:1-7



Old Testament 4
Part 1: God's People in the Desert

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Leviticus 10:1-7; 8:1-13; Exodus 28; Numbers 3:4

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Oh, come, let us worship and bow down...for He is our God" (Psalm 95:6a,7a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Oh, come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For He is our God" (Psalm 95:6,7a).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- "[Leviticus 10:1-3](#)"
- "[The Children's Class](#)"
- "[I Worship My Heavenly Father This Way](#)"
- "[Bible Class](#)"
- "[Strange Fire](#)"
- "[Nadab and Abihu](#)"

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How I worship is one very important way that I can show God that I love Him. So I must have the right attitude as I worship, and I must worship Him the way He tells me to in His Word.



LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Sometimes Mama and Daddy and other grownups ask you to do things that you don't want to do, or they make rules that you don't understand. God is our Heavenly Father, and He tells us what to do in His Word, the Bible. He expects us to obey His Word, even if we don't understand why. We must follow God's rules no matter what. Today, we're going to talk about two men who did not pay attention to God's rules.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson

When your teacher gives you instructions on how to do an assignment, does she expect you to follow those instructions? What happens if you don't? Why can't everyone just do the assignment like they want to? When your parents ask you to do something, and maybe even to do it in a certain way, do they expect you to follow their instructions? What happens if you don't? What happens if all the members of the family decide to have their own set of rules and ignore Mom and Dad's? Today, we are going to talk about two men who did not follow God's instructions, and what happened to them because of their decision.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. As God guided the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan (the Promised Land), He planned a special place for them to worship Him (the Tabernacle) and specific ways that they were to worship Him. This was very important because all of the two to three million people camping in the desert (wilderness) had been born and raised in Egypt, surrounded by idols and idol-worshipping people. (Review basic points from the last lesson on the tabernacle.)
2. Part of God's plan was to have one special group of men—the tribe of Levi (Levites)—to be in charge of the Tabernacle and the worship activities there (including making the sacrifices every day). Some Levites were priests and the rest were special helpers. Aaron, Moses' brother, was chosen by God to be the first High Priest. His four sons, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar, were priests who were to work under him (Exodus 6:23-25).
3. When the Tabernacle was completed, the Israelites celebrated for eight days. They had a special ceremony for Aaron and his sons so that everyone would know they had been chosen by God to lead the people in their worship. God gave specific instructions to Moses about this ceremony. God spoke to Moses, and Moses understood that he had to do exactly what God said, not substituting his own ideas about the Tabernacle, the work of the priests, or the pattern of worship God specified.
4. Aaron and his sons washed and put on beautiful clothing made especially for them as the priests (Exodus 28). After special sacrifices were offered, fire came down from heaven and completely consumed the offering on the altar so that the Israelites would know that Almighty God would always watch over their worship and would always be with them. The Israelites were very happy and thankful, but the joy in the camp did not last long.
5. Two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, made some bad choices with serious consequences. They decided to offer "foreign fire" to burn incense at the Tabernacle, and God struck them

dead. So, a time of great celebration turned to a time of great sadness. What was so wrong about the “kind” of fire they offered? What did Nadab and Abihu do that was so wrong?

6. The text says that they used the wrong fire (“foreign fire,” “profane fire,” or “unauthorized fire”)—fire which God “had not commanded them” (Leviticus 10:1). This seems to indicate that they did not get the fire for the sacrifice from the right place (which many believe was supposed to be from the altar). [Others also argue, based on Exodus 30:7-10, that they may not have even been authorized to make this particular sacrifice, although it is possible that the mention of “Aaron” in that passage might actually mean, “the house of Aaron,” which would include his sons (cf. vss. 8-11). Some argue that the timing of their offering might have been presumptuous. Others argue that they may have been drunk, and thus not in a respectful, holy mindset, based on the following verses (vss. 8-11).] Regardless of the specifics of what God was upset about, one thing is clear: they did not have permission or authority from God for what they did. When we worship God, we must have permission for what we do!
7. Nadab and Abihu were trained to be special servants to God, but they thought their own way of doing things was as good as God’s. They were foolish because they decided to ignore God’s rules. They died because they disobeyed. It was (and still is) a serious thing to be a servant of the Lord. In Hebrews 12:28-29, the writer says that we must serve God “acceptably with reverence and godly fear; for our God is a consuming fire” (see also Deuteronomy 4:24).
8. Moses told Aaron that he should not let the people see him mourn (be sad) for his two older sons who died, because they had sinned against God (Leviticus 10:6-7; 21:10-12). By mourning for his sons, God could have been made to look like the “bad Guy” in the story, because people would have felt sorry for Aaron. But Nadab and Abihu died for their own sins, not because of God.
9. The Israelites learned a very important lesson the day that Nadab and Abihu died, and so can we. We show love for God by how we worship Him, without adding or changing anything of the pattern He has given us in His Word. [OLDER CHILDREN: Briefly talk about what’s wrong with musical instruments in worship, why we have no women preachers, praise teams, Christmas and Easter services, handclapping, etc. These topics/ideas should be further developed Wednesday night.]



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See Apologetics Press’ booklet, *[Surrendering to His Lordship](#)*, for further background study on the biblical principle of authority. See also the articles “[Hermeneutical Principles in the Old Testament](#)” and “[Technicalities](#)” by Dave Miller on the Apologetics Press Web site and the DVD “[Pleasing God in Worship](#)” by Dave Miller.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[The Acts of Worship Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- As the children come into class, show them items to remind them about ways we worship God, such as a songbook, a Bible, a communion tray, a collection basket, a picture of

someone praying. As you talk about each item and how it relates to worship, ask them questions about how we should behave. [What should we do during a prayer? During the Lord's Supper? During the sermon? Should we giggle, squirm, and talk out loud? Should we act like we do at a ball game?]

- [“The Acts of Worship Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)

1st-2nd Graders:

- Play Hang Man or Tic-tac-toe to review this lesson and previous lessons.
- [“The Acts of Worship Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Worship Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play the “Worship in Spirit and in Truth” game:

Group game: Write lesson questions on half sheets of poster board and laminate. On small index cards, write the Scriptures where the answers can be found. Divide the students into teams. Give each team a set of the Scripture cards and a question board. As the students find the answers, they should write their answers on the question board with a dry erase marker. [You can set a kitchen timer for 5-10 minutes to make them race, if desired.] Example questions:

- What day of the week should we give to God money that we have set aside/saved for Him (1 Corinthians 16:2)? [The first day of the week—Sunday]
- What part of the communion/Lord's Supper reminds us of Christ's body on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)? [Unleavened bread]
- What does the grape juice (fruit of the vine) remind us of (1 Corinthians 11:25)? [Blood of Jesus]
- On what day of the week did the first Christians gather to “break bread” (to take the Lord's Supper; Acts 20:7)? [The first day of the week—Sunday]
- I must pray and sing with the _____ (1 Corinthians 14:15). [Understanding]
- We must worship in _____ (John 4:24). [Spirit and truth]

Individual game/learning center: Write the questions and statements for the group game on index cards. Glue library card pockets inside a file folder. On the outside of the pockets, write the Scripture references given so that the children can search for the answers and put each card in the correct pocket.

3rd-4th Graders:

- Play Hang Man or Tic-tac-toe to review this lesson and previous lessons
- [“The Acts of Worship Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“The Worship Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play the “Worship in Spirit and in Truth” game:

Group game: Write lesson questions on half sheets of poster board and laminate. On small index cards, write the Scriptures where the answers can be found. Divide the students into teams. Give each team a set of the Scripture cards and a question board. As the students find the answers, they should write their answers on the question board with a dry erase marker. [You can set a kitchen timer for 5-10 minutes to make them race, if desired.] Example questions:

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Individual game/learning center: Write the questions and statements for the group game on index cards. Glue library card pockets inside a file folder. On the outside of the pockets, write the Scripture references given so that the children can search for the answers and put each card in the correct pocket.

- **Advanced Bible Reader:** Have the children read Exodus chapter 28, as well as chapters 26, 27, and 29-30 if they have not done so this quarter. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Exodus chapters 26-30 quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.
- Have the children read the following:
 - Leviticus chapters 8 and 10
 - *Discovery* article: “Strange Fire,” [July, 2000](#), p. 52

FINGERPLAYS:

“THE CHILDREN’S CLASS”

This is the class where the children go. (hands together at fingertips)
Hear their glad songs singing? (hands cupped around ears)
They sing to the Lord, for they love Him so;
Listen and hear them singing.

This is the class where the children go. (hands together at fingertips)
I wonder what they’re saying? (puzzled look)
They’re telling the Lord that they love Him so. (hands over heart)
Listen and hear them praying. (hands together in prayer)

“I WORSHIP MY HEAVENLY FATHER THIS WAY”

(Use pictures or hand motions to illustrate)

When I am happy, I sing to God.
And when I am thankful, I pray.
And when I am blessed with good things, I give.
I worship my Heavenly Father this way.

“BIBLE CLASS”

I say “Hello!” (shake hands)
To friends in class;
I’m happy as can be. (big smile)
They are my Bible class friends.
I love them all, you see.
Then when I go into our class, (fingers walk across table)
I do not run—I walk!
And I remember others are here,
So quietly I talk.

SONGS:

“LEVITICUS 10:1-3”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Hidden in My Heart](#)” CD)

“NADAB AND ABIHU” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “More, More About Jesus”)

Now about Aaron let us tell;
He had two sons; he loved them well;
They disobeyed God, strange fire they had.
And then they died; ‘twas very sad.

CHORUS:

Nadab and Abihu, Nadab and Abihu;
They displeased God, ‘twas plain to see.
They were examples for you and me.

“STRANGE FIRE”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “Scotland’s Burning”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Nadab and Abihu

Leviticus 10:1-7



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WEDNESDAY EVENING

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- How I worship is one very important way that I can show God that I love Him. So I must have the right attitude as I worship, and I must worship Him the way He tells me to in His Word.



INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Talk about what it means to have permission to do something, and what it would be like in life if people did whatever they wanted without permission (for example, pharmacists adding other drugs to prescriptions that doctors had prescribed; restaurants taking your parents’ debit cards or money when it’s time to pay and charging your parents for things they did not order; Noah adding an extra floor to the ark made out of oak, or adding wings to the ark to try to make it fly).
3. Re-emphasize the importance of worshipping just as God has commanded us, without adding or changing anything (cf. Colossians 3:17; John 4:24; 17:17; Matthew 15:8-9; 1 Corinthians 4:6; Galatians 1:8-9; Revelation 22:18-19).
4. As is appropriate for your class, discuss things man has added or changed in worship services (instrumental music, choirs, praise teams, women worship leaders, etc.) that are not approved by or commanded by God.
5. Look up and read together scriptures regarding the acts of worship.
 - Communion: 1 Corinthians 10:16
 - Prayer: 1 Timothy 2:8; Philippians 4:6
 - Preaching/Teaching: Acts 2:42
 - Giving: 1 Corinthians 16:2
 - Singing: Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:19

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning lesson.

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