



Jacob's sons were jealous of their brother Joseph, who was Rachel's first biological child and the favored son of their father. They sold Joseph to Midianite traders who sold him in Egypt to Potiphar. While Joseph was in Egypt his faithfulness and unique ability to interpret dreams earned him a place of respect and leadership in Egypt. When famine hit the surrounding land, Joseph saved his brothers and their families from death by giving them a home in Egypt. (Read all about it in Genesis 37, 39-47.) God prospered Israel's family in Egypt and they multiplied and grew strong. The Egyptians then forced them into slavery and hard labor. It was Moses who would lead them back to the Promised Land. This is the context of Miriam's life.

1. Read Numbers 26:59. Who was Miriam?
2. Read Hebrews 11:23. What is said about Miriam's parents?
3. Read Exodus 1. Why did the Egyptian king command the midwives to put to death all of the Hebrew's newborn sons?
4. Read Exodus 2:4-8. What brave deed did young Miriam do? What was the outcome?
5. Read Micah 6:4 with Exodus 15:20-21. What roles and privileges did God give to Miriam? How much influence did she have?





6. To get the background for Numbers 12 and a significant event in Miriam's life, read Numbers 11:16-20. What did God tell Moses to do and why?

7. Read Numbers 12:1-4. What did Miriam do? What do you think her attitude was all about?

8. Read Exodus 33:7-10 and Leviticus 1:1. What was the tent of meeting? Do you have a tent of meeting? Describe one of your meetings.

9. Read Numbers 12:4-10. List the things God did about Miriam's attitude and behavior? What "time" word stands out to you in this passage? What are your thoughts about this?

10. Read Numbers 12:11-15. What was the process God used to show his grace to Miriam? Who showed true repentance? What was Moses' role?





11. What do you think Miriam thought when she realized the grace she received? Can you identify?

12. Miriam's sin was serious and it was not done in secret like she thought. In fact, when Moses was writing the laws God gave to him regarding leprosy, he brought up Miriam as a reminder of the awfulness of the disease (see Deuteronomy 24:8-9). Is any sin in secret? How does 2 Chronicles 16:9 apply?

13. Describe a time when you have reacted to a situation much like Miriam did. What was the outcome?

14. Read Ephesians 4:31; Philippians 3:2; and Colossians 3:12-13. What applications can you make to your own life?

We have a lot to learn from Miriam's successes and failure. God made her a leader with great influence and yet she grew frustrated in how things were going. God also made her a "visual aid" for the rest of us. May we learn and remember.

For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth
that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His.
1 Chronicles 16:9

