

# Numbers

## LEADERS LESSON OVERVIEW—Lesson 5



### FOR THE LEADER

In this lesson, we will learn that gossip destroys friendships.

#### KEY POINT

We should not gossip.

#### KEY VERSE

Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. **Proverbs 26:20**

*Note: Boys are not required to memorize the Key Point or Key Verse to receive completion credit for this lesson.*

For information on how to use Bible merits in a Royal Rangers meeting, refer to the TRaCclub Support section or the *Royal Rangers Leader Manual*.

#### REFLECT ANSWERS

These answers match the questions in the Reflect section of the boys' sheet.

- Gossip is discussing another person's private life or actions.
- Answers will vary.
- Gossip does not please God.



### MATERIALS & PREP

Prepare a copy of the Student Handout for each boy.

- Bag of seeds

Read the lesson in advance, taking note of the main points. Be prepared to present the lesson to your group, but avoid reading it word for word. Include discussion with the group to make it more enjoyable for everyone.

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# Numbers

STUDENT HANDOUT—Lesson 5



## KEY THOUGHTS

### KEY POINT

We should not gossip.

### KEY VERSE

Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down. **Proverbs 26:20**



## READ

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this.

(Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward, he said, “Listen to my words:

“When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.

But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD.

Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them. Numbers 12:1–9

To gossip is to talk about someone else’s deeds or private life. People often gossip about those who are in the news. People also gossip about friends and those who live close to them.

Something does not have to be false for it to be gossip.

In Numbers, Miriam and Aaron were talking about Moses. They spoke against him because of his wife. He had not married a Hebrew woman. Instead, he had married a woman from Cush.

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Their reason for speaking against Moses is not clear. But, it is clear that God was not pleased.

Gossip causes trouble. It drives people apart. That is not what God wants. God wants His people to be united. We sin when we cause problems to form among God's people.

It is always tempting to share what you know about someone with your friends. But God has called us to help others, not to tear them down with our words.

God wants us to be men who nurture unity. Our words can bring people together, or our words can divide people.

Many groups of friends have been torn apart because of gossip. Sometimes, gossip can split a church. This never pleases God. We should not say anything about people we would not say to them. By controlling our words, we will bring unity to the body of Christ and we will bring honor to Jesus.



### REFLECT

As a group, discuss the following questions.

- What is gossip?
- How has gossip caused problems with your friends?
- How does God feel about gossip?

Review the Key Point and the Key Verse.

**PRAYER:** Dear God, thank You that You want unity among Your people. Help my words and actions to always draw people closer to each other and to You. Amen.



### RESPOND

Take a bag of seed outside and stand in a high place in the wind. Scatter the seed, and then ask your boys to collect them. They won't be able to collect all of them. Explain that when we gossip, we release our words into the wind, and we are never able to fully take back the things that we say, nor do we know where our words will end up.

Remember to read your Bible this week using the Bible reading plan of your choice. A recommended plan can be found in the Bible Reading merit or online at [RoyalRangers.com](http://RoyalRangers.com). Review this lesson with a friend or parent as a way to help you remember it.

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