

Beware of Jealousy!

Instructions: Do this activity in a quiet place. As you read the scriptures, imagine that you are a bystander watching the events. Picture the scene. Hear the voices. Feel the emotions of the characters. Let the account come to life.

Main characters: Miriam, Aaron, Moses

Summary: Miriam and Aaron jealously complain about their brother, Moses.

1 THINK ABOUT THE SCENE.—READ NUMBERS 12:1-15.

How do you picture the three characters in this account?

Miriam: _____

Aaron: _____

Moses: _____

What tone of voice do you think Miriam and Aaron used when saying the words recorded in verse 2?

Imagine the appearance of “the pillar of cloud” and the sound of Jehovah’s voice as he reproved Miriam and Aaron. Describe what you “see” and “hear.” (*Reread Numbers 12:5-9.*)

What emotions do you detect in the voices of Aaron and Moses as they plead for Miriam in verses 11-13?

2 DIG DEEPER.

Of Miriam, Aaron, and Moses, who was the youngest? How do you think this might have affected the way Miriam and Aaron spoke to their brother? (Read Exodus 2: 1-4, 10; 7:7.)

Why did Miriam and Aaron ask: “Is it not by us also that [Jehovah] has spoken?” (Clue: Read Exodus 15:20, 21; 28:1-3.)

Why did Jehovah get so angry with Miriam and Aaron? (Read Numbers 12:7, 8.)

What impresses you about the way Moses reacted to unfair criticism?

3 APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED.

Write down what you learned about . . .

The danger of jealousy.

How to handle unfair criticism.

4 ASK YOURSELF.

How might I fall into the trap of jealousy?

How can I handle criticism meekly and lovingly?

What lesson from this account is most important to me, and why?

Suggestion: Read this account aloud with friends or family members. One person can be assigned to read the narration. Others can read the parts of Miriam, Aaron, Moses, and Jehovah.

