**Life out of Death Bible Study Handout**

Have you ever seen a magic trick that made you think something supernatural was happening?

Read Numbers 17:1-13.

1. Why did God have people set twelve staffs before the Ark of the Covenant?
   1. The number twelve is a special number for God.
   2. There was one number for each tribe—twelve in total.
   3. It was a way of including everyone since there had been rebellion throughout the whole camp.
   4. So many people had died recently, so it was necessary to start anew.
   5. The Ark was a special place for God.
   6. The Ark represented God’s presence among his people.
   7. The people needed more supernatural proof than just hearing God’s voice.
   8. Other.
2. What was the significance of Aaron’s walking stick budding and growing almonds?
   1. Walking sticks don’t usually bud like a tree.
   2. Buds indicate life.
   3. A walking stick budding like that is supposed to be impossible.
   4. Having something like this happen would be a miracle.
   5. I don’t see any significance here.
   6. This would definitely settle the question of Aaron’s leadership.
   7. There was nothing growing out there with them in the desert—especially not buds on walking sticks.
   8. It made the walking stick worthless.
   9. Other.
3. If you had been there and known that a budding walking stick meant *you* were God’s chosen leader, what would you have done?
   1. Nothing.
   2. Snuck a stick with buds tied onto it into the Most Holy Place.
   3. Pray that God would make my tribe’s staff bud.
   4. Pray that God would make the staff of his choosing bud.
   5. Spread the word that this whole thing was another setup.
   6. Suggest that the Israelites set up a democracy and rule themselves.
   7. Cut a few slits in my tribe’s walking staff and add fertilizer and water to them.
   8. Call all the members of my tribe to place a blessing on our walking stick.
   9. Other.
4. How was Aaron’s staff able to bud, blossom, and produce almonds?
   1. It was a miracle.
   2. Either Aaron or Moses snuck in during the night and switched Aaron’s walking stick with one that had blossoms tied onto it.
   3. God had actively demonstrated his power to show the person he had chosen as the high priest.
   4. There was a spiritual vortex located at that particular location.
   5. Because nobody living today actually saw this happen, it didn’t actually happen.
   6. God went over the top—he didn’t just make the walking stick blossom, he made it produce almonds.
   7. If you take water from a split-open rock and mix some manna into it, you get buds.
   8. Moses and Aaron had followed what God instructed them to do.
   9. Other.
5. What happened when Moses brought out the twelve staffs to show everyone the next day?
   1. Nobody was sure whose staff belonged to whom.
   2. Everyone present felt awe and began to worship God.
   3. God made it very, very, clear who his chosen leader for the people of Israel was.
   4. There was more rebellion from wannabe leaders in the multitude.
   5. There was still a question in everyone’s minds whether the tribe of Levi was truly the one God had chosen.
   6. Some people asked for a rematch.
   7. People called a compliance oversight committee together to discuss God’s decision.
   8. Everyone present made a commitment to follow the leadership of Moses and Aaron.
   9. Other.
6. Why did God want Aaron’s staff to stay in the Ark in Numbers 17:10?
   1. So it would continue to grow blossoms and almonds.
   2. Aaron really didn’t need a walking stick.
   3. It was so Aaron could have it there for him to use whenever he went into the Most Holy Place.
   4. It was further proof that God had chosen the line of Aaron for the priesthood.
   5. It was physical proof of what God’s response had been when the people challenged his chosen leaders.
   6. It was a warning to any potential rebels and complainers that would rise up in the future.
   7. It was so Paul could write about it in Hebrews 9:4.
   8. It was to prevent further punishment and destruction from God for the disobedience of his people.
   9. Other.
7. What is the difference between challenging God’s chosen leaders and rebelling against them?
8. Who are God’s chosen leaders today? How do you relate to them?