

# What do the rebels teach us?

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As the Israelites traveled through the Wilderness of Zin, the people were getting angry and rebelling against Aaron and Moses. They were whining, complaining, building golden idols, and asking to go back to Egypt. In response, Moses asked God for help and God commanded them to bring water forth from the rock by speaking to it. Instead, Moses hits the rock, twice, with his rod. Why does he hit it twice? Was it because the group was pushing him to react? Was he swayed by the people's pushing and complaining?

ט וַיִּקַּח מֹשֶׁה אֶת-הַמַּטֵּה מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּהוּ: י וַיִּקְהֵלוּ מֹשֶׁה וְאַהֲרֹן אֶת-הַקְּהָל  
אֶל-פְּנֵי הַסֵּלַע וַיֹּאמֶר לָהֶם **שְׁמַעוּ-נָא הַמּוֹרִים** הַמִּן-הַסֵּלַע הַזֶּה נוֹצֵיא לָכֶם מַיִם:  
יב וַיִּרְם מֹשֶׁה אֶת-יָדוֹ וַיִּדְ אֶת-הַסֵּלַע בְּמַטְהוֹ פַּעַמַיִם וַיֵּצְאוּ מַיִם רַבִּים וַתִּשְׂתֵּה קַעֲדָה  
וּבְעִירָם: ס יב וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאַל-אַהֲרֹן יַעַן לֹא-הֵאֱמַנְתֶּם בִּי לְהַקְדִּישֵׁנִי  
לְעֵינֵי בְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל לָכֵן לֹא תָבִיאוּ אֶת-הַקְּהָל הַזֶּה אֶל-הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר-נָתַתִּי לָהֶם:  
במדבר כ:ט-יב

*Moses took the rod from before the Eternal, as he had been commanded. Moses and Aaron assembled the congregation in front of the rock; and he said to them, "Listen, you rebels, shall we get water for you out of this rock?" And Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod. Out came copious water, and the community and their beasts drank. But the Eternal One said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not trust Me enough to affirm My sanctity in the sight of the Israelite people, therefore, you shall not lead this congregation into the land that I have given them." B'midbar 20:9-12*

One of the most discussed words in this section of the Torah is the use of the word "morim". It is commonly translated as 'rebels'.

- When the group was whining, complaining, and pushing back on Moses, were they rebelling or were they sticking up for their needs?
- Is rebellion always a bad thing? When is it ok?
- As a NFTY teen leader, you might feel like Moses – as the middle man between the participants and the advisors/administration. What rebellions do you possibly foresee within NFTY? What are the risks of allowing a rebellion to go on and what are the risks of stopping one?

The Hebrew word *moreh* means teacher.

- What is the connection between rebel and teacher? Are these words interchangeable or related at all?
- Are all teachers and leaders 'rebels' to some extent?

