



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

When you feel like complaining, thank God instead.

OBJECTIVE:

Preschoolers will remember, "instead of complaining, I can be thankful."

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 16:1-18, Manna and Quail

MEMORY VERSE:

"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good." 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NIV)

SUMMARY:

God had done a great thing! He had delivered God's people who were trapped by Pharaoh in Egypt. But instead of thanking Him, the people grumbled and complained about not having enough food. We shouldn't grumble and complain about what we don't have, but should thank God for everything we do have.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

You are good. We thank you for all you have done.

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good." 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NirV)

LARGE GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Say the verse several times together. Start by saying it in a whisper, then a little less softly. Keep repeating it until you are shouting the verse together.

Hand motions: "Give thanks" [Extend your arms in front of you, palms up] "to the Lord," [Raise your extended arms up toward heaven] "because he is good." [Bring your arms down and place your hands on your heart.]

SMALL GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Have kids say the verse together in a variety of positions: standing, sitting, bowing, standing on one foot, jumping, etc.



SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

TITLE: Don't Complain

ITEMS NEEDED: Baseball glove (optional)

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2 Flexible

CHARACTERS: C, D

C is on stage, fiddling with his/her baseball glove. D enters.

D: I'm so sorry. I just heard that you got hurt playing baseball.

C: Just a skinned knee. Thank God I didn't break it.

D: And then I heard your dog ran away.

C: She did. But thank God we found her and she's okay.

D: And I heard you didn't do well on that science test in school.

C: I did terrible, but that's because I didn't study. Thank God that he's given me a good mind for science, and now I know how important it is to study for the test.

D: Wow. You are such a positive person. If all of these things were happening to me, I would be complaining about it to everyone.

C: Nobody's life is perfect. But when things go bad, instead of complaining, we should say "thank you God."

D: You say "thank you God" even when things go wrong?

C: Sure. Because I know that God is by my side. I know that he will take care of me and he will see me through whatever is happening.

D: That's true.

THANK YOU: DON'T COMPLAIN

SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

C: All of the bad stuff doesn't even compare to all of the good stuff that God has given me, or has in store for me when I get to be with him in heaven.

D: When you put it that way, there really is nothing to complain about.

C: Thank you, God.

D: Thank you, God.

They exit together. End.



SNACK

ITEMS NEEDED: Vanilla Wafers

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Post a sign outside the preschool area that says, "Today's snack is Vanilla Wafers. Please let your child's teacher know if it is not ok for your child to have this snack."

CONNECTION: Even though they complained, God took care of his people. He gave them manna bread and quail to eat. We can trust that God will take care of us. Instead of complaining, we can give thanks.



CRAFT

Manna and Quail

ITEMS NEEDED: Construction paper, glue sticks, crayons

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Cut or tear light brown construction paper into approximately ½ inch squares (manna). Cut black construction paper into small quail silhouettes.

DIRECTIONS: Give each kid a piece of construction paper. Set out the manna squares and allow kids to “gather” some by gluing pieces to their paper. Next give each child one or two quail silhouettes to glue onto the page. Allow kids to color the page as they like.

Remind kids that God provided manna and quail for the Israelites even though they grumbled and complained. Sometimes life doesn't go our way, but we still have so much to be thankful for. Instead of complaining, we can thank God.



HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

ITEMS NEEDED: Several packages of cotton balls, baskets (one for each kid)

ADVANCED PREPARATION: None.

DIRECTIONS:

When God's people, the Israelites, woke up every morning, there was manna covering the ground. The people simply had to gather up the manna, so that they would have enough to eat that day. They could trust that God would provide again the next day.

Show the kids the cotton balls.

Now, of course, we can't eat this, but we're going to pretend that we're the Israelites and that this is manna.

Give each kid a basket. Toss the cotton balls everywhere around the room. Have kids collect the cotton balls.

Look at all that manna. Look at how God took care of the Israelites. God takes care of us too.

We don't need to complain, we don't need to grumble. God is good and he gives us good things. We should thank him always. Remember, instead of complaining, I can thank God.



MAIN LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

When you feel like complaining, thank God instead.

OBJECTIVE:

Preschoolers will remember, "instead of complaining, I can be thankful."

KEY PASSAGE:

Exodus 16:1-18, Manna and Quail

WORSHIP TIME:

Prior to the lesson, sing one or two songs with the kids. Use CDs or live lyrics of songs that the kids are familiar with.

LESSON:

Today's story comes to us from the Bible. (Hold up a Bible.) The Bible is God's word to us, so we know that everything it says is true. (Open the Bible and set it down in front of you as you give the lesson.)

In life, we can choose to grumble and be selfish, or we can choose to be grateful. Every day we should praise God and give Him thanks. Instead of complaining, we can be thankful.

God had done an amazing thing! He had delivered God's people from the evil Pharaoh in Egypt. But as they traveled through the desert, the people started to grumble and complain. They didn't like the desert, and they were running out of food.

They didn't thank God for watching over them. They didn't trust that God would keep watching over them. No, they complained.

God loved them and provided food for them. Every morning, God gave them bread from heaven. This bread was called manna. In the evening, God provided quail for the people to eat. God never stopped taking care of his people.

God never stops taking care of us. We should thank him for all he does for us. Sometimes we want to complain and grumble too. We complain that we don't have this toy, or we complain that we have to go to bed so early, or we complain about having to eat our vegetables.

MAIN LESSON

But let's not be grumblers and complainers. Let's remember all the good things that God has done. Let's thank him for taking care of us. Let's thank him for loving us. And when things aren't going right, say "instead of complaining, I can be thankful."

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

You are good. We thank you for all you have done.

Amen

THANK YOU: DON'T COMPLAIN



MAIN LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WIGGLE TAMER: Play a few rounds of Manna, Manna, Quail. (Duck, Duck, Goose)

SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Have kids say the verse together in a variety of positions: standing, sitting, bowing, standing on one foot, jumping, etc.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Why did the people grumble and complain?

How did God take care of his people?

What is one thing you thank God for today?

SMALL GROUP GAME OR ACTIVITY: Ask kids to give you their biggest, best smile. Now ask for their grumpiest, saddest frown. Go through a list of things that might make you happy or sad. As you say each one, have kids indicate which face is warranted. (Examples: we're going to Disneyland, my favorite toy broke, I'm hungry, I learned how to write my name, etc.) Remind kids that no matter if times are happy or sad, God is still good and we can still thank Him.



SPECIAL 1 PAGE LESSON FOR 1 & 2 YEAR OLDS

PLAY TIME: Spend the first 15 minutes on the floor playing with the kids. Cars, dolls, blocks, and simple puzzles are great for this time.

BIBLE TIME: Seat the kids in the place they will be having snack. Hold up a Bible or Illustrated Kids' Bible and say, "This is the Bible. God wrote the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true." Then allow each child to pat the Bible with his hand.

LESSON: (*Sung to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"*)

Do not grumble, don't complain

Not in your car, or on a plane

God takes care of us you see.

He loves you and He loves me.

So do not grumble, don't complain

Just give thanks to God always.

Instead of complaining, I can be thankful.

MAKE IT REAL: After the lesson say, "God loves you, and he wants you to love him too." Then point to each child and say, "God loves you (child's name)."

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Teach the kids the verse, using the following hand motions: 1 Chronicles 16:34a. "Give thanks" [Extend your arms in front of you, palms up] "to the Lord," [Raise your extended arms up toward heaven] "because he is good." [Bring your arms down and place your hands on your heart.]

PRAYER TIME: Ask the children to fold their hands and bow their heads. Say, "Let's pray before our snack. Thank you God for our mommies and our daddies. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for this snack we get to eat. Amen."

SNACK TIME: Wash each child's hand with a wet wipe and then serve the snack. At this age crackers or goldfish with water are generally best, but you always want to be mindful of any food allergies.

POTTY BREAK: After snack is a great time to ask those who are potty trained if they need to use the bathroom, or change diapers of those who are not yet potty trained.

PLAY TIME: Finish the day with more playtime until it's time for dismissal.



MAKE IT STICK

4 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Thank You Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DON'T COMPLAIN



IN THE CAR:

On your next drive, listen to worship music that emphasizes God's goodness. Sing together. Talk about some times we are tempted to complain, but that God is always good. There is always reason to sing God's praise and to give Him thanks. Instead of complaining, we can thank God.



HANGING OUT:

Similar to an Easter egg hunt, have your own Manna hunt in the backyard or a large room of the house. Use shelled peanuts, cotton balls, or similar small items to represent the manna. Hide it throughout the space, then invite kids to "gather" it, just as the Israelites gathered the manna God provided. Talk about God's goodness, and how we can always find reasons to thank Him. (If using shelled nuts, you can crack them open and eat them together as you talk about God's goodness.)



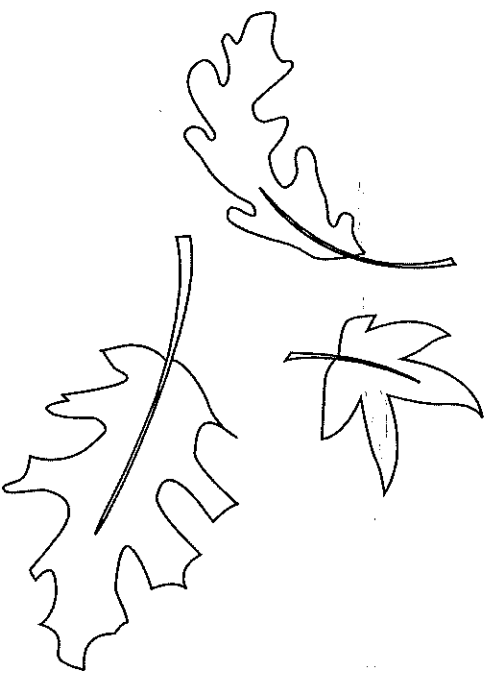
AT DINNER:

As you eat the meal together, recall the story of the Israelites gathering manna to eat. Talk together about what an amazing way God provided food for his people. Thank God for providing for your family so that you have food to eat and are taken care of.

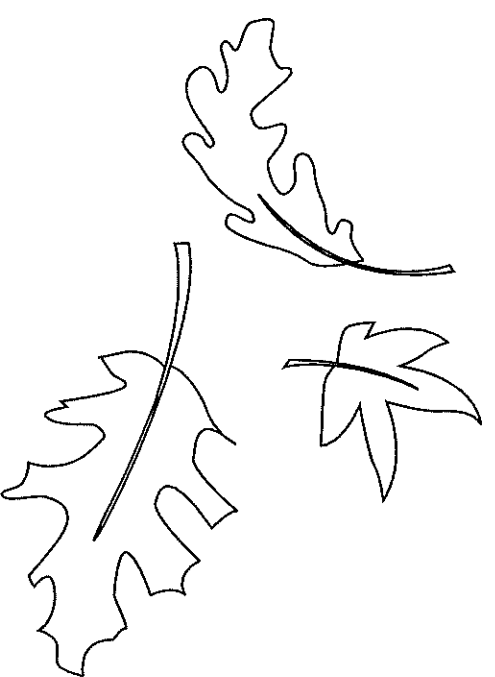


AT BEDTIME:

Snuggle up and read the memory verse together. "Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good." 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NIRV) Talk about how, even when we're sad and life doesn't go our way, God is still good. Say a prayer of thanks to God for never changing, and for always taking care of us.



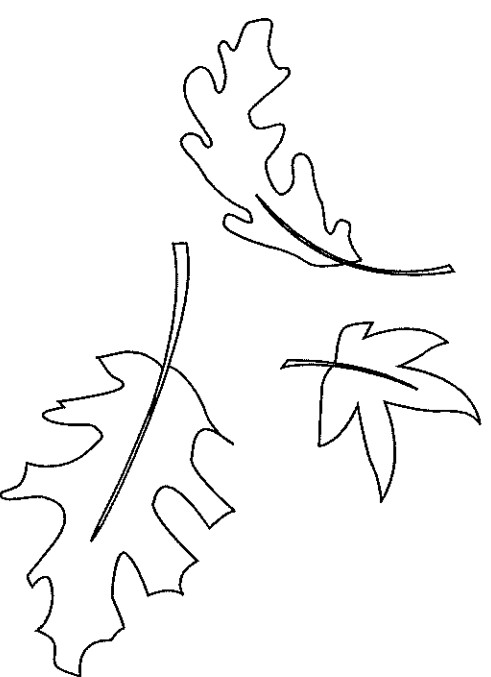
"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good."
- 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NIRV)



"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good."
- 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NIRV)



"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good."
- 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NIRV)



"Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good."
- 1 Chronicles 16:34a (NIRV)