

Lesson 3: Israelites Complain Again

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Numbers 11 – The Lord sends fire and a plague because the Israelites complain
- 2) Understand that complaining hinders us from doing good things
- 3) Understand that too much of a good thing can be harmful

Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Put the Pictures in Order – The Israelites and the Quail – one per student
- Handicaps of Complaints Sheet – one per student
- Small piece of paper – one per student
- Complaining Mouth Drawing Sheet – one per student
- Map of Israel's Journey – one for class to share

Optional:

Quail Quail Everywhere Hand Painting Activity

- Construction Paper – one sheet per student
- Shallow tray or paper plate – one for every 4 students
- Finger Paint or Chocolate Pudding – one for every 4 students
- Damp Paper Towels – enough to share to clean hands afterwards
- Men's long sleeve shirts or smocks or aprons – one per student to wear
- Black Markers – to share
- Feathers – enough so every child gets 10 or so
- Glue – enough to share for feathers

Handicap Game Supplies

- Bubble Gum – 5 pieces per student
- Soda Crackers – 5 crackers per student
- 20 Pens
- Sheet of Paper – one per student
- Blindfold – one per class to share
- Twine or thin rope – enough for class to share
- Scissors to cut twine/rope
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Boneless Cooked Chicken Pieces (Bite Sized) *Keep cold 1-4 pieces for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Say to students: **Can anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied the silver trumpets that the Lord used to communicate to the

Israelites and how Jesus uses the Bible to communicate with us today. We also saw that the Israelites began to travel away from Mount Sinai after having been there almost 2 years.

If you have your Bibles let's find Numbers and turn there now. (For those that might not have a Bible, have them share with someone or get them one to use. Help as needed.)

Today we are studying Numbers Chapter 11.

2) Numbers 11 – God Punishes the Israelites for Complaining 10-20 minutes

***Before class if you want the students to actually try any of the handicaps prepare the materials.

Some tasks require materials, some do not. See list above in supplies under Handicap Game Supplies to see what you may need.

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Can I get a volunteer to read **Numbers 11:1-3**?

Discussion Questions:

What did the Israelites do here? Complain

What was God's reaction? He was angry and sent fire to the outskirts of the camp

What stopped the fire? Moses prayer to God

What does Taberah mean? Fire!

We are going to do an activity to help us understand how complaining causes problems or obstacles in our life.

Hand out one Handicap of Complaining sheet to each child. Ask a volunteer to read the first task and handicap aloud. Ask the students how do they think they would accomplish that? – If that is the activity you want them to try, have them try it and see how hard it is to accomplish. Go through each task and handicap asking everyone to take turns reading one square aloud and if you decide, have them actually try some of the tasks with the handicap described.

Say: **During this exercise all of you experienced or read about what it would be like to do something you felt inadequate to do. How does complaining stop people from doing what the Lord would want them to do?** Let students raise hands and answer

How do we limit or handicap ourselves today in our faith in God by complaining? Let students answer. Idea should be that by complaining we are stating we are not happy or satisfied with what the Lord has given us.

How did complaining work for the Israelites? It didn't – the Lord was angry and punished them and they did not get what they thought they wanted in the first place because they didn't trust in God.

What are some obstacles that can get in our way of trusting God? Let students answer: fears, relationships, temptations, emotions, bad experiences, etc.

Hand out one small piece of paper and pencil to each child, then ask:

What obstacles or handicaps do you need to overcome in order to trust God? Write it down and then put it in your Bible or somewhere they will remember it. Your assignment this week is to regularly review the list and pray for God's help in overcoming your obstacles. (For students too young to write - let them draw a picture or have you write the word for them if they are comfortable).

3) Israelites Complain Again and Put Pictures in Order Activity 15-20 minutes

Ask students to turn in their Bibles to **Numbers 11:4-35**. Ask for volunteers

to take turns reading 4 verses each until the end of the chapter. Or read yourself. Once done, hand out one "Put the Pictures in Order" The story of the Quail sheet to students along with pencil crayons. Read the description under each picture aloud and then have the students put the pictures in chronological order (the order in which they happened in the Bible).



Answers: 1) One 2) Five 3) Four 4) Two 5) Six 6) Three

Check answers with students and if time allow them to color the page while you discuss the following questions and show them the map the Israelites journeyed as they went to Hazeroth.

Questions:

What are some things that you would like? Let students answer

How can too much of that thing not be good? Let students answer: example – too much sports equipment means you have more to clean, store, and take care of. – too much t.v. means you can't get other things done like sleep, eat, study, play with friends, etc.

Almost too much of any physical thing in this life is not good! Who should we trust to ensure we have enough but not too much? God and our parents.

*If time read the parable of the rich fool in **Luke 12:13-21**. Say: **See how gathering up too much is not only pointless, but wrecks your relationship with God. You should not complain or be greedy but be content with what you have.**

Finally, turn to **Philippians 2:14** and read that aloud. Ask the students; **how does this relate to the lesson we studied about the Israelites?** Let students answer

So to review – What have we learned today? Let students answer: **God punished the Israelites for complaining instead of trusting in God and being grateful for what they did have. We learned too that we need to be careful not to let handicaps or obstacles like complaining get in our way of trusting in God and that being greedy or complaining can have severe consequences. Grumbling or complaining is unbelief – and we are not saved by unbelief.**

4) Optional: Quail Quail Everywhere Hand Painting

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet of construction paper to each child and with a marker, have them write "Quail Everywhere" at the top of the page. Next have them write their name somewhere on the page before they begin to paint.

Pour finger paint or chocolate pudding onto the plates so that there is one plate of paint for every 4 children so they can dip their hands in and share. Next have them put on their shirts, aprons, or smocks to make sure they don't get any paint on their church clothes ☺

Say to the students: We are going to take turns, dipping our hands into the paint and making sure to only get a small amount on the palms and fingers of our hands, if you dip too hard with your hand open, you will get too much paint and then it won't dry quickly on the page, ok? If you do get too much, smear your hand on the edge of the plate or tray before placing on the paper. We are going to cover our paper with our handprints, making sure to not overlap. Once the prints dry, we will draw eyes, a beak (on the thumb) and feet on each quail. Then we will glue some feathers to each quail and let the glue dry.



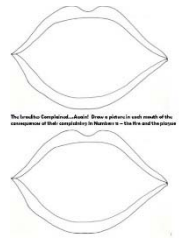
*Note this may take one class to do the prints, and another class to do the drawing and feathers because the paint/pudding may take a while to dry ☺

Make sure immediately after doing hand prints that the children wash their hands with the wet paper towels provided and/or going to the washroom to wash hands and clean up before moving on to the next activity.

5) Israelites Complain Drawing Sheet

10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student with pencils. Read the directions aloud and have the students draw two pictures – one of the Israelites complaining which caused God to send fire, and one of the Israelites complaining which caused God to send a plague. If time have students show their pictures to you and explain their drawing.



6) Optional – Snack: Chicken Pieces – to represent Quail

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“Today we saw that the Israelites whined and murmured for meat. God sent them quail, which is a type of small bird. Before they could enjoy it, He sent a plague because He was angry that they had not been satisfied with what He had given them and that they did not trust in Him to supply their needs. As we eat our chicken pieces, let’s remember to be content with what we have and if we do need something, ask God but then don’t complain but trust that He will take care of it!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking. See if students can remember the two different ways and consequences of the Israelites complaining.

7) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

1) **Books of the Old Testament** – sung to the Alphabet song (A,B,C,D...)

2) **We will Listen and Obey** *(to the tune of Old MacDonald had a Farm)*

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

Here a Yes, There a Yes,

Everywhere a Yes! Yes!

We will Listen and Obey,

Yes Lord, yes we will.

With a Yes Lord here and a Yes Lord there

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God, thank you for the events in the Bible that help us learn how we should behave and the blessings we have when we follow You and Your Son, Jesus. Thank you for giving us our homes, food, clothing, friends, families and the church family. Thank you for the sacrifice of your Son so our sins can be forgiven and that we can be in a right relationship with You and come to You with our problems, good news, thanksgivings, and requests. We pray that when we do come to You that we remember not to complain but be grateful for what You have given us, help us to ask but be willing to wait contently for Your answer. Thank you that we can talk to You and that You will help us and hear us! Pray for those who could not be here, those that are sick, pray for the leaders of the church and country to make wise godly decisions and pray that our families will remember to come to church and worship You and Your Son in truth. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!