

Old Testament

Aaron and Mariam complain Numbers 12

Younger Memory Verse Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Proverbs 3:5

Older Memory Verse Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

We have all complained about something. Even in Bible times, people complained about things. Let's see what happens when Moses' brother and sister complain.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

With God's help, Moses has led the people through many tough times. They faced the army at the Red Sea and saw God open the water and help them get across. They were hungry and God provided food called manna for them. God even made sure that their clothes and shoes did not wear out in the desert.

God took care of all their needs. The hard thing was the fact that the desert was hot and life was not like it used to be. Slowly the people would get an attitude and begin to complain and grumble about their hard situation. Some of the people would even say that they wished they were slaves again!

It is easy to begin to complain when a person starts looking at things from his view instead of God's view. That is what Moses' brother and sister did.

They started looking at the bad or negative things and even criticizing Moses. They wanted things their way and maybe wanted Moses to make them a leader. Aaron and Miriam complained about many things, even Moses' wife!

One day, all three of them (Moses, Aaron and Miriam) were in the church tent. Suddenly God called and asked them to come out of the tent. They obeyed and God came down in the form of a cloud at the entrance of the tent.

Lesson Goals

Describe what happens when we complain about things
See how our focus should be on what God wants not what we want

Then, God asked Aaron and Miriam to step forward. They obeyed and God spoke to them. He shared that He loved Moses and spoke to him face to face. He helped Aaron and Miriam understand that Moses got his instructions from God.

Then, God did something to teach Aaron and Miriam a lesson. God knew that they were complaining and grumbling about Moses. He wanted them to see that it was not good to complain; it only caused more separation of the group.

When the cloud lifted, Miriam stood before her brothers covered with leprosy. Leprosy is a disease that causes a person's skin to turn white and ashy. If it is not treated, it eats away at a person's fingers and body parts so that they will eventually fall off! IT is also very contagious. That means that a person can give the disease to other people!

When Aaron saw what had happened, he cried out to Moses and asked him to forgive their sin of complaining.

Then, Moses called to God and asked God to heal her. Instead of healing her immediately, God told Miriam to sit outside the camp for 7 days. After the 7 days, she was healed.

Complaining and grumbling cause many problems for people. Aaron and Miriam learned the hard way that it is a sin that hurts God.

When we sin or do wrong, it separates us from God, just like Miriam had to stay outside the camp for 7 days. God did not want us to be separated, so He made a way for us to come to Him. He did this by making a way for us to be clean. God's Son, Jesus, died on a cross to pay the price for all our sin. He died in our place for all our wrongs. Then, Jesus came back to life to show us that there is a way to Heaven if we believe in Him. If we trust in Jesus and ask Him to come into our lives, He will stay with us and take us to Heaven one way. We must also tell God we are sorry for the wrong things we have done and start doing things God's way. Would you like to know more about how to trust in Jesus? Talk to us about it.

Another lesson we can learn is not to complain or grumble. Even after God forgave Aaron and Miriam, Miriam had to wait 7 days before she was healed. That was a lot of thinking time for her to see that their complaining caused much hurt within the group.

We can also learn that complaining and grumbling hurts others and causes separation between everyone. Let's try this week to think and talk positively about others.

Learning Activities

This is a great lesson to apply to our lives. Let's encourage the kids to say encouraging things to others.

Memory Verse Activities

Aaron and Miriam tried to do things their way instead of trusting God with all their heart. Talk about what it means not to *LEAN* on our own understanding.

Prayer Time

Ask God to help everyone say encouraging words to everyone this week and ask Him to help us not complain or grumble.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks together!

Planning for Lesson 31
Exploring Canaan
Numbers 13

Preschool Lesson
For
Aaron and Miriam complain

Have you ever heard someone complain about something. You may have heard someone say, “I don’t like that!” or “This tastes yucky!” or “I don’t want to do that!”

It sure does not feel good to hear someone complaining. It hurts people and makes them start seeing things in a bad way instead of a good way.

Moses had a brother and a sister. Their names were Aaron and Miriam. They loved their brother and traveled with him when God led the people out of slavery.

God led His people through the hot, hot desert. God gave the people everything they needed. He gave them food, shade, and water. God even made sure that their clothes and shoes did not wear out as they were walking!!

However, sometimes, when things are hard, people start to complain. That is what Aaron and Miriam started to do. They complained about living in the desert, about eating manna, even about Moses’ wife!

God heard their complaining and wanted to teach them a lesson. God asked the three of them to step outside the church tent. Then, He asked Aaron and Miriam to step forward. God came down in the form of a cloud and told them that He did not like their complaining attitudes. When the cloud was gone, Miriam was covered with a white sickness.

Aaron turned to Moses and told him he was sorry for complaining. Then, he asked Moses for help.

Moses called to God and asked God to heal Miriam. God told Moses that she would have to sit outside the camp for 7 days, then she would be well. Miriam had 7 days to tell God she was sorry and see that complaining and grumbling only hurts others.

God wants us to say kind things to others. Instead of telling someone that we do not like something, He wants us to either keep our mouths closed or say something nice.

Let’s pray and ask God to help us share kind words this week.

Hands-On Activities
For
Aaron and Miriam complain

Why do people complain? Most of the time, a person complains because they want their way, instead of the way of the leader. It could also be that the person is jealous of someone or something, or simply they don't like something. When a person complains, it causes hurt feelings and separation between people.

Use several of these object lessons to help the kids see the effects of complaining.

Share that complaining is like a sheet of paper. Tear it in half. Share that complaining separates people and causes hurt. Tape the paper together. Share how there are scars that are left even after people forgive.

Bring sandpaper and wood. Share that complaining is like sandpaper. It wears down others. Share how the sandpaper slowly causes the wood to change. Some change may be good but continual complaining affects the wood and us!

Bring an inexpensive pair of plastic sunglasses. Share that complaining affects our vision. Explain that when we complain, we are focusing on ourselves and not the needs of others. Rub baby oil on the glass lens. Ask the kids to look through the glasses. It is hard to see things correctly. When we complain and grumble, we do not see things correctly.

Make lemonade for the kids but leave out the sugar. The lemonade should be very bitter and sour. Share how complaining makes a person very bitter and sour. Now add sugar. Explain that sweetness and kindness help others and encourage them. Ask the kids how they can be "sugar" this week. Bring little packets of sugar for them to take home to remember to say sweet words to others.

There is a fun object lesson using Brussel Sprouts and candy to illustrate the need not to complain. See the packet.
