

## MEMORYVERSE/BIG IDEA

**TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE/BIG IDEA:** Show the children the memory verse/big idea and talk about where it comes from (the Bible, the NEW Testament, the book of John, God said these words.) Discuss what the verse/big idea means.

**(All Ages)** "Jesus said, 'Stop complaining to each other.'" John 6:43

### VERSE MOTIONS

"**Jesus** said, '**Stop** complaining **to each other**.'" John 6:43

**Jesus**- make "Jesus" sign- tap tip of middle finger to opposite palm, then repeat with other hand

**Stop**- hold hand up and out with palm flat open and vertical (like "halt")

**To each other**- point with both index fingers out to other people

### PRAYER

Dear God,

Teach us to be thankful at all times and not to grumble or complain. Help us to enjoy the blessings you give us every day.

In Jesus' name,  
Amen

## BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Ages 3-Kindergarten read all. Under age 2 read the **blue text** only.

1. Say: "I've got a little experiment to show you."

- Hold up a plain sheet of paper with a single dot in the center. Ask kids what they see. (Most likely, they will comment on the dot.) Point out that what you have is a perfectly good sheet of paper. It just happens to have one little dot. So often we are prone to point out the tiny bit of bad in a situation, rather than focusing on the overall positive/good. When we only look at the bad side of things, we often complain.

- Ask: "What's something you've complained about this week?"

**(allow for answers)**

Say: "When we complain, it shows that our hearts are not grateful for the things we have. God wants us to have thankful hearts. He also wants us to come to Him with our requests rather than grumbling when we don't get our way. That doesn't mean that God will always give us exactly what we want, but we can trust God to give us exactly what we need."

2. Today we will hear the story of the Israelites grumbling in the desert. God had rescued the Israelites. He saved them from the Egyptian king, Pharaoh. God's people had seen Him do amazing things to help them and take care of them. But, they

still found things to complain about.

The Israelites had just left Egypt where they had been slaves. They were on their way to freedom. God had done some pretty amazing things for them. Yet, they were HUNGRY! And so they whined. (Have the kids whine).

3. God knew they were hungry, and he was ready to take care of them! Do you know what he did? He made FOOD fall from the sky! This food was special flakes . . . almost like it was snowing! When the food landed, the people were able to eat it. They called this food, "Manna", which means "What is it?" because they really didn't know what it was! The Manna had everything the people needed to stay healthy. They had enough to eat every single day they were in the desert wilderness.

4. Yet, do you think they were happy? NO! Guess what they did! They WHINED. (have the kids whine)

*You'll say the following in a whiny voice:* "We want meat!" they said, "We're tired of this MANNA stuff. It doesn't taste good anymore. It's YUCKY!" (have the kids whine)

## BIBLE STORY AND REVIEW QUESTIONS CONTINUED

You see, God was a bit upset with all the Israelites' whining. No matter what He did – they still complained! He gave them food when they needed it, He gave them water when they needed it, they were safe from their enemies, and yet what did they do? They WHINED!  
(have the kids whine)

5. God doesn't like it when we whine and complain. He tells us to do EVERYTHING without complaining or arguing! We should be careful not to WHINE and COMPLAIN, too!

Do you know what can help us to not whine and complain? Thinking about all the good things God has done for us and saying "thank you" to Him.

When we are thankful and focus on the good things God has given us, we aren't going to whine or complain. It's hard to whine or complain when you have a joyful, thankful heart. Let's thank God now!

[Close in prayer, thanking God for all He has done!]

## ACTIVITY

### STOP THE WHINING!

1. Say: "Today we are talking about how the Israelites kept whining and complaining. God doesn't like it when we whine and complain! Do you ever whine and complain? What does it sound like when you whine?" (kids demonstrate whining sounds)
2. Play a fun game where the kids practice whining and stopping the whine! Play some music. While the music is playing, the kids should whine as loudly as they can. But as soon as the music stops, you should yell "STOP the whining" and the kids should be as quiet as they possibly can (and not move a muscle). See how long they can stay frozen in that position until you start the music again.

When you finish, say: "Sometimes we whine a lot, don't we? But guess what? We can all STOP whining if we really wanted to. Just like you stopped whining during this game, we can stop whining in our lives. Be a person who Praises God and DOES NOT WHINE!"

### GRUMBLING GAME

To play this game, give everyone five clothespins (or stickers, etc.) and have them pin them to their clothing. Any time an unwholesome (grumbling, complaining, etc.) thing is said, the person who first calls it gets to pull one clothespin from the offending person's shirt and put it in the middle of the dining room table. The person left wearing the most clothespins at the end of the day wins extra dessert at dinner (or some other small prize).

### COLORING PAGE:

See the link on the "At-Home Resources" page on the Church Website for the coloring page. Post a picture of your completed coloring page on our Facebook page (First Light Littles) so that we can all see your artwork!

## SONG

VIDEO- "WITHOUT COMPLAINING" by Steve Green <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEYrEgnbgAw>

For more resources a check out the First Light Littles Facebook Page!  
Feel free to our Preschool Coordinators if you have any questions or prayer requests:  
Amy MacGillivray, [amacgillivray@firstlight.church](mailto:amacgillivray@firstlight.church) or Brittney Hoskins, [bhoskins@firstlight.church](mailto:bhoskins@firstlight.church)