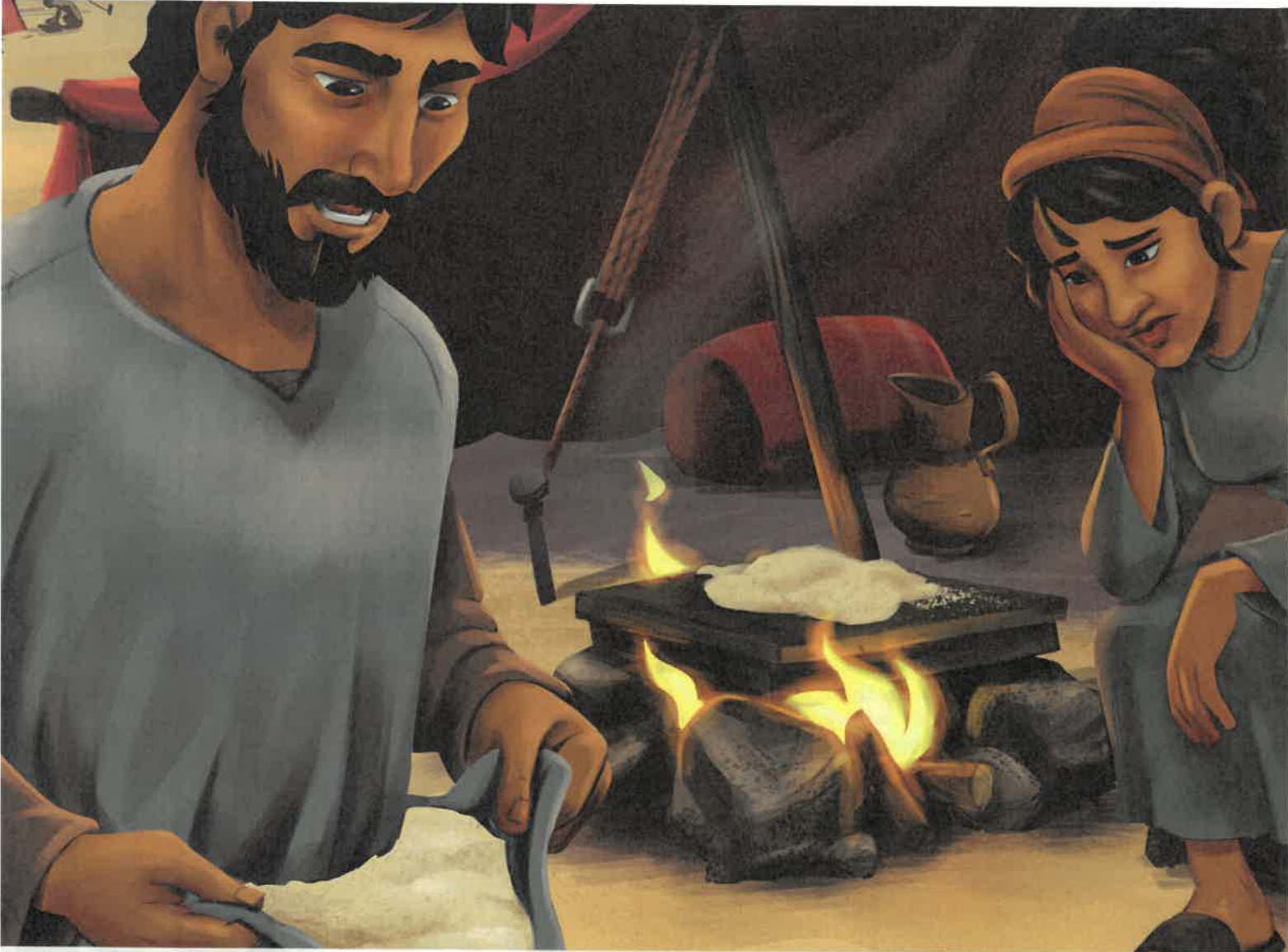


UNIT 6 | SESSION 1

PreK 3/9/23

# THE PEOPLE GRUMBLLED

NUMBERS 11-12



**CHRIST CONNECTION:** The people grumbled even though God gave them everything they needed. We sometimes grumble too, but God has given us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He loves us.

**KEY PASSAGE:** All things work together for the good of those who love God. Romans 8:28

**STORY POINT:** God gave His people what they needed, but they wanted more.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

The Israelites' grumbling in Numbers 11 and 12 showcases God's graciousness to provide abundantly more than their ungrateful hearts deserved. Though He made His presence visible among them, they did not believe He offered them His best. God's people began to treat God's miraculous provision as though it were mundane.

Why were the Israelites so prone to overlook God's mercies? How are we tempted to fall into these same patterns?

The Israelites faulted God—and by default, Moses—for not providing the comforts they desired. They openly grumbled, not holding back their objections. Though God faithfully provided for them, they fixated on only the good parts of the lives they left behind, from the delicious food to the consolation found in knowing what to expect each day. Their view of God's goodness shrank, and their desire for worldly comfort grew with each step they took away from Egypt.

We witness the cycle of unbelief in today's story: the people grumbled, Moses intervened, God relented from destruction, and they began this pattern all over again. They overlooked God's provision for their journey and the guidance Moses provided. This pattern is one we can fall prey to as we neglect to express gratitude for God's provision in our lives. When we, like the Israelites, focus on what we perceive as lacking in our lives, we neglect the undeserved mercy and grace He grants us each day.

Moses was a set-apart leader who interceded for the Israelites and desired that God would redeem them from sin; however, he could not put an end to the pattern of their wayward hearts. But One was coming, a prophet like Moses, who could offer the gift of eternal salvation and forgiveness of sin. The long-awaited Messiah, Jesus, would be the fulfillment of all God's promises. Help kids see that God supplies our every need—most supremely, our need to be made right with Him forever. Pray that they see God's goodness and kindness to them in Christ.



### PREPARE

#### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



### WELCOME

#### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



### LEARN

#### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



### LOVE

Lead preschoolers to love the God of the gospel

30-40 MINUTES



### LIVE

Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



### BONUS

#### 60-65 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers for an additional hour



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.



### WELCOME

#### Create a sandy wilderness camp

- Big Picture Question Poster
- large shallow bin
- sand
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- stones
- greenery
- small plastic cup



### LEARN

#### Put food in the basket

- basket
- toy food items

#### Tell the Bible story

- "The People Grumbled" video (optional)

#### Review the Bible story

- basket
- toy food items

#### Learn and practice the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker



### LOVE

#### Camp in the wilderness

- pop-up tent
- empty paper towel rolls
- red and orange tissue paper
- toy camping gear
- toy food items

#### Care for a baby doll

- baby care items
- baby blanket
- toy doctor's kit



### LIVE

#### Assemble key passage phrase puzzles

- "Key Passage Phrase Puzzles" printable, 1 copy per 3 or 4 children

#### Missions activity

- "Sub-Saharan African Peoples" missions video (optional)

#### Snack and Transition

- hand sanitizer (optional)
- "Match the Good Items to Their Shadow" activity page, 1 per child
- Big Picture Cards for Families



### BONUS

#### Say the key passage phrase

- Key Passage Phrase Marker

#### Make a water droplet poster

- poster board
- water droppers, 1 per child
- assorted food color
- plastic cups
- plastic spoons
- art smocks
- towel
- large shallow bin

#### Spell with magnetic letters

- magnetic letters
- cookie sheet
- index cards, 5



## WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

### CREATE A SANDY WILDERNESS CAMP

Place the bin on a low table and pour a shallow layer of sand in it. Lay the plants, stones, and cups on the table near the bin. Display the Big Picture Question Poster and the Bible Story Picture Poster. As children arrive, welcome them to class. Direct the children to help you arrange the provided items in the sand to look like a wilderness camp. Point to the picture poster as you guide children to position cups, bottom side up to look like tents. Prompt children to arrange the plants and the stones as fire pits and wilderness landscaping. Read the Big Picture Question Poster to the children as they create a wilderness camp.

**SAY** 🗨️ I am so glad to see you today! You've created a wonderful wilderness camp. In today's Bible story, we will hear how God's people lived in the wilderness. God showed love to His people by giving them everything they needed to survive, like food and water. But God's people began to grumble and complain about many things. **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** This was disobeying God. Our big picture question and answer is, Why should we obey God? We should obey God because He loves us. God loved the people who lived in the wilderness even when they grumbled. We sometimes grumble too, but God gives us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. 🙏

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\*

Worship  
\* I've Got the Joy  
\* I will trust you God

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

## LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 PUT FOOD IN THE BASKET

Before going to the group time area, walk around the room setting out pieces of play food. Then, hold up a basket in the group time area and direct the children to look around the room, find the play food pieces, and bring them to group time. As children arrive, guide them to place the toy food in the basket before being seated.

**SAY** “Wouldn’t it be nice if all we had to do when we were hungry was to go outside and to collect some food each day? While God’s people lived in the wilderness, God provided all they needed including their food and water. This should have made them happy all the time, but it didn’t. Listen carefully and hear how they sometimes behaved.”

### 2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY *video*

Open your Bible to Numbers 11–12. Tell the following Bible story using the provided storytelling points. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

#### THE PEOPLE GRUMBLED

**SAY** “As God’s people walked through the wilderness, some of them got tired of eating the same food every day. They wanted meat and other foods like they had in Egypt. Moses heard the people complaining. Moses was angry with the people, and God was angry too.

Moses told God, “These people are so much trouble. I am tired of leading them.”

God told Moses to choose 70 helpers to help him take care of the people. Then he would not have to lead them all by himself.

Moses’ brother, Aaron, and his sister, Miriam, started to grumble too. They said, “Why does God speak through Moses? What makes him so special?”

Then, God talked to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Miriam got sick because of what she and Aaron said about Moses. Miriam had to leave the camp because of her sickness. Moses asked God to heal her, and after seven days, she came back. Then God’s people continued walking in the wilderness.”

**Christ Connection:** The people grumbled even though God gave them everything they needed. We sometimes grumble too, but God has given us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins.



## LEARN

### THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

#### 3 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Give each child a piece of food from the basket and ask them to hold it. Ask review questions and direct the child answering the question to toss his play food into the basket. When questions are finished, encourage remaining children to toss their food into the basket. Questions to ask: Why did God's people complain about the food God gave them? (They did not like eating the same food each day.) What kind of food did the people want? (meat) How did their grumbling make Moses and God feel? (angry) How many helpers did God tell Moses to choose? (70) What did Moses' brother and sister grumble about? (God speaking through Moses only) What happened to Miriam because of her grumbling? (sickness)

\* Bible Story Picture

**SAY** **“GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** The people in the wilderness grumbled even though God gave them everything they needed. This made God angry with them. We sometimes grumble too, but God gave us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. **”**

#### 4 SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?”:

All things work, all things work  
 Together for the good, together for the good  
 The good of those who love God, the good of those who love God  
 Romans 8:28, Romans 8:28

\* "We Know" worship song

#### 5 LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Romans 8:28. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Learn the phrase by teaching the children these motions. For the words “all things,” guide children to spread their hands in front of them. For “work,” pound one fist on the other. For “together,” put both hands together. For “good,” touch your chin with your right hand (palm up) and then lay that hand on the palm of your left hand. For “those,” point to others in the room. For “love,” cross arms in front of your body. And for “God,” point upward.

**SAY** **“The key passage phrase says, ‘All things work together for the good of those who love God. Romans 8:28.’ God showed His love to His people in the wilderness, but instead, they grumbled. As a consequence, hard things happened to them. Copy my motions as we say the key passage phrase together. ”**

#### 6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for how much He loves us and provides for us.

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God because of what we learned

#### 1 COUNT 70 ITEMS



Place crayons, markers, and blocks on a tabletop. Invite the children to help you count to 70 by counting groups of five. Count five items aloud and lay the items together in a group on the table. Then direct the children to count out additional groups of five items until you have 14 groups of items. When finished, count the groups by five to show there are 70 total items on the table.

**SAY** 🕒 Thank you for helping me count to 70. Seventy is a big number! In the wilderness, God's people grumbled so much that Moses got tired of leading them. So, God told Moses to appoint 70 helpers. **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** The people grumbled. We sometimes grumble too, but God gave us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save people from their sins. 🕒

#### 2 CAMP IN THE WILDERNESS

Enlist the help of the children to pop up the tent. Create a pretend fire by stacking paper towel tubes like logs and tucking red and orange tissue paper around them. Lay out the toy camping gear. Invite children to camp like God's people did in the wilderness. Encourage them to play in the tent or to cook their food over the pretend fire.

**SAY** 🕒 God's people lived in the wilderness for a very long time. In our Bible story, we heard that God's people sometimes grumbled and complained. They complained about their food. Moses complained about being tired of leading them. Even Miriam and Aaron complained about the way God spoke to Moses. **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** The people grumbled. We sometimes grumble too, but God gave us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. 🕒

#### 3 CARE FOR A BABY DOLL

In a corner of the room, create a pretend hospital. Place the doll, baby blanket, baby care items, and the doctor's kit in the hospital area. Show the children the doll and the items. Prompt the children to give the doll a checkup with the doctor's kit and then to take care of the doll using the doll care items. As the children play, prompt them to do things like listen to the doll's heart, take it's temperature, rock it in a chair, or to tuck it into bed.

**SAY** 🕒 We played and pretended that our baby doll was sick. She wasn't really sick, but it was fun to try to make her feel better. We heard today that Miriam got sick because she and Aaron complained about Moses. Miriam had to leave the camp because of her sickness. Moses asked God to heal her, and after seven days she came back to the camp. 🕒

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE for God out of love

#### 1 ASSEMBLE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE PUZZLES

Before the session, print the “Key Passage Phrase Puzzles” printable for groups of three or four children. Cut out the puzzles. Place a set of mixed-up puzzle pieces, construction paper, and glue sticks on a table. Arrange children in groups of three or four and invite them sit at one of the puzzle stations. Guide the child to assemble the puzzle pieces on their paper. Then, distribute a glue stick to each and assist in gluing down the correctly assembled puzzle pieces.

**SAY** 🗣️ Say the phrase with me: ‘All things work together for the good of those who love God. Romans 8:28.’ We heard today how God’s people grumbled even though God gave them everything they needed. When they complained, they were not showing that they loved God. God wants us to love Him and remember that He gave us what we need the most: Jesus! 🙏

#### 2 MISSIONS ACTIVITY

Explain that missionaries have helped many people in Sub-Saharan Africa hear about Jesus, but there are still many people in the area with no missionaries or churches nearby. Show the “Sub-Saharan African Peoples” missions video.

**SAY** 🗣️ Everyone everywhere needs to know about Jesus. Sub-Sahara Africa is a large region that is more than double the size of the United States. More missionaries are needed in this area to help all the people living there hear about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.] 🙏

#### 3 SNACK AND TRANSITION

Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

**SAY** 🗣️ The people grumbled even though God gave them everything they needed. We sometimes grumble too, but God has given us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. 🙏

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.





## BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

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### 1 MAKE FACES

Sit in the group time area and invite children to join you. As children arrive, prompt them to make faces with you as you provide them with different emotions. After you read each bullet point, lead children to make faces that would be appropriate for that statement.

### 2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Numbers 11–12. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

#### THE PEOPLE GRUMBLED

- Some of God’s people got tired of eating the same food every day in the wilderness. They complained. Moses and God were angry with them.
- Moses said, “These people are trouble. I am tired of leading them.”
- God told Moses to choose 70 helpers to help him take care of the people. Then he would not have to lead them all by himself.
- Moses’ brother and sister grumbled too. They said, “Why does God speak through Moses? What makes him so special?”
- God talked to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. Miriam got sick for speaking against Moses, and she had to leave the camp. Moses asked God to heal her, and He did.

### 3 SING A SONG

Sing the song below to the tune of “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?”:

All things work, all things work  
Together for the good, together for the good  
The good of those who love God, the good of those who love God  
Romans 8:28, Romans 8:28

### 4 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Romans 8:28. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage phrase aloud to the children. Guide the children to repeat the phrase with you several times, making faces and using their voices as if they are sad, happy, angry, and silly.

### 5 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for loving us and for providing for us even when we grumble and complain.



## BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

### 6 PLAY A GRUMBLE GAME

Stand in the middle of the classroom and guide children to gather closely around you. Say the words “Grumble, grumble” over and over again while they slowly walk away from you. Instruct the children that when you say, “Shhhh,” they are to quickly walk back to you. The first one to tag you gets to have a turn saying “Grumble, grumble” while the other children walk away.

**SAY** “ Today, we heard about Moses leading God’s people in the wilderness. Some of the people, including Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, were grumbling and complaining. **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** We sometimes grumble too, but God gave us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save us from our sins. ”

### 7 MAKE A WATER DROPLET POSTER

Prior to the session, write the key passage phrase onto a poster board with permanent marker. Fill plastic cups half full with water and add several drops food color to each cup. Place the poster on a large towel in the center of the table. Place cups of water and water droppers on the table. Assist children to put on art smocks. Read the key passage phrase aloud. Show children how to use the water droppers and encourage them to drop the colored water onto the poster board.

**SAY** “ The key passage phrase says, ‘All things work together for the good of those who love God.’ Romans 8:28. As God’s people wandered in the wilderness, they sometimes grumbled and didn’t see God working for their good. **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** Thank you for creating a beautiful poster that reminds us God is working for our good. ”

### 8 SPELL WITH MAGNETIC LETTERS

On five index cards, write the words GOD, MOSES, FOOD, JESUS, LIVE, writing one word per card. Pull the letters from the magnetic letters that spell the words on the cards. Set the other letters aside. Place the cards, magnetic letters, and a cookie sheet on a table. Invite a child to spell words with you. Read the words card and prompt the child to select one. Lay the card on the cookie sheet and help her spell the word by matching the magnetic letters to the letters on the cards. When the child has finished her word, encourage another child to have a turn.

**SAY** “ While God’s people lived in the wilderness, God provided for them. **GOD GAVE HIS PEOPLE WHAT THEY NEEDED, BUT THEY WANTED MORE.** His people grumbled. We sometimes grumble, too. God gave us what we need most: Jesus! Jesus died and rose again to save people from their sins. ”

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church’s security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.