



LESSON 18

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Thankfulness and grateful hearts.

Bible Character(s): Moses

Scripture Reference: Exodus 16-17



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read Exodus 16-17. Spend time focusing on the Israelites' response to God's provision and protection. How does it differ from most of ours today? Do you have a heart of thankfulness or one of discontentment and complaint? Seek God to help you identify areas in your life where there is more grumbling than praise, repent of this, and pray to have a more thankful heart.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Thankfulness

Have the campers draw pictures of things they are thankful for. They can also write a thank you card to their parents to thank them for everything they do.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will be learning about what happened after God led the Israelites out of Egypt. We will see God continue to provide for them, although they do not show thankfulness or grateful hearts for what God has done. We will examine what a thankful and grateful heart looks like.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What happened in the video today? Did the staffers appreciate the food and water they received? (No, they did not.) What did they do instead, and why? (They complained because they wanted better food and water than what they were given.)

Last week we continued our study of Exodus. God displayed His mighty power when he used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. He proved that He is Lord of all. The Israelites crossed the Red Sea, and then they walked for a long time through a big desert. What is a desert? (Allow responses.) A hot, dry place with tons of sand and no water. God was with them while they were in Egypt. He protected them during the plagues. He performed a miracle to divide the Red Sea and made it possible for them to cross and escape the Egyptian army that chased them.

Today we are going to continue with the story and see how the Israelites struggle with being in the desert.

Let's begin in Exodus 16 [NLT].

Exodus 16:1-3

1 Then the whole community of Israel set out from Elim and journeyed into the wilderness, between Elim and Mount Sinai. They arrived there on the fifteenth day of the second month, one month after leaving the land of Egypt. 2 There, too, the whole community of Israel complained about Moses and Aaron.

3 "If only the LORD had killed us back in Egypt," they moaned. "There we sat around pots filled with meat and ate all the bread we wanted. But now you have brought us into this wilderness to starve us all to death."

The Israelites traveled through the wilderness. They had left Egypt one month earlier and they were all complaining.

Let's examine more closely what exactly was going on with the Israelites.

Early Morning Dew Report



The purpose is to show the campers how unthankful and ungrateful the Israelites were for what God had done.

Supplies:

Worksheet – newspaper side (1 per camper)

Read through the newspaper worksheet as a class and fill in the answers.

Tie It Together



We learned last week that God led the Israelites out of Egypt and into the Wilderness. What exactly were the Israelites complaining about? (Having no food to eat.) Who were they complaining about? (Moses and Aaron.) Were Moses and Aaron responsible for bringing the Israelites out of Egypt? No, it was God. God used Moses and Aaron to lead them out of Egypt, out of a life of slavery, and they complained about not having food to eat. They moaned that they would rather be slaves again than live in the wilderness without food! The Israelites complained against God and what He had done for them. Do you think they had any reason to complain or grumble? What does the Israelites' complaining show about their hearts? How do you think the Israelites should have responded to what God had done for them? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue the story to see what happened.

Exodus 16:6-8

6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "By evening you will realize it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 7 In the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your complaints, which are against him, not against us. What have we done that you should complain about us?" 8 Then Moses added, "The LORD will give you meat to eat in the evening and bread to satisfy you in the morning, for he has heard all your complaints against him. What have we done? Yes, your complaints are against the LORD, not against us."

Moses and Aaron told the Israelites that their complaints were really against God because He had done everything for them. They told the Israelites that God heard their complaints and would provide meat and bread for them each day. Then God told Moses and Aaron to command the people to take only what they needed each day. He also commanded the people to honor the Sabbath as a day of rest, set apart for the Lord. They were to take two days worth of food the day before the Sabbath so they would have enough to last them through the Sabbath.

Let's continue in chapter 17 to see what happened next.

Exodus 17:1-4

1 At the LORD's command, the whole community of Israel left the wilderness of Sin and moved from place to place. Eventually they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water there for the people to drink. 2 So once more the people complained against Moses. "Give us water to drink!" they demanded.

"Quiet!" Moses replied. "Why are you complaining against me? And why are you testing the LORD?"

3 But tormented by thirst, they continued to argue with Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Are you trying to kill us, our children, and our livestock with thirst?"

4 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, "What should I do with these people? They are ready to stone me!"

After all God had done for them, providing them with food despite their complaints, the people found another reason to complain. They focused on themselves instead of God and did not have thankful or grateful hearts. Instead of worshiping God for bringing them out of a life of slavery and providing for their needs, they complained and demanded more. They even questioned God's motives for bringing them out of Egypt. They accused God of trying to kill them! How do you think this made God feel? How do you think God responded, and why? (Allow responses.)

Let's see what God did.

Exodus 17:5-7

5 The LORD said to Moses, "Walk out in front of the people. Take your staff, the one you used when you struck the water of the Nile, and call some of the elders of Israel to join you. 6 I will stand before you on the rock at Mount Sinai. Strike the rock, and water will come gushing out. Then the people will be able to drink." So Moses struck the rock as he was told, and water gushed out as the elders looked on.

7 Moses named the place Massah (which means "test") and Meribah (which means "arguing") because the people of Israel argued with Moses and tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD here with us or not?"

God continued to be faithful to His people, regardless of how they responded to His faithfulness and provision. They were not thankful or grateful to God for what He did for them.

Ungrateful



The purpose is to have the campers examine times when they are ungrateful for what they have been given.

Supplies:

Role-play situations (1 per bin)

Read the situations; have one camper give you a thankful response and another camper give an ungrateful response.

Tie It Together



Sometimes we may be given something, or have something done for us, and it is not something we really like. We want something different, something that we think is better. God wants us to realize that everything we are given is from Him and we should have a grateful heart. We do not deserve to have anything, but God graciously provided His Son so we can live eternally with Him, if we put our faith and trust in Jesus. Even if it is not what we would choose for ourselves, we can be grateful when we are given a gift of some sort because it helps us to remember that everything we have been given is a gift from God.

Am I Thankful?



The purpose is to allow the campers to examine their hearts to see if they are thankful and grateful for what God has given to them.

Supplies:

Worksheet – “Am I Thankful?” side (1 per camper)

Have campers write out a list or draw pictures of things that they have in their life. Next, have them make another list of things they wish they had. After they’ve had time to finish, use the Tie It Together to talk them through examining the condition of their heart.

Tie It Together



Look at the two lists you came up with. Why do you want those things? Do you deserve them? (Allow responses.) Out of all of the things on both lists, which of these things do you actually need? Do you deserve any of these things? (Allow responses.) Everything we have is a gift from God. God gave us the greatest gift when He gave His only Son. He gave His only Son, Jesus, to be the sacrifice that would allow each of us to live with Him always, if we decide to put our faith and trust in Him. We do not deserve to have anything, but God has provided eternal life for us and He provides daily for us with everything we need. He wants us to have a life filled with worship for Him and joy that He offers us. God wants us to recognize that we do not deserve anything we have and respond with a thankful and grateful heart. He does not want us to be selfish and expect to be given more. When we are thankful and grateful in our heart, we bring glory to God.

Are you really thankful for what God has done for you and given you? How do you show your thankfulness?

Thankful or Un-thankful?



The purpose is for the campers to recognize thankfulness.

Supplies:

Blank piece of paper (1 per camper)

Situations guide (1 per bin)

Give each camper a piece of paper. Have them each draw a smiling face on one side and a sad face on the other. Play a game by reading the sentences out loud. If the sentence shows thankfulness, each camper can hold up the happy face. If the sentence shows complaining, each camper can hold up the sad face.

** Campers will use this paper again in another activity.

Tie It Together



There are so many times every day that we can show thankfulness. It’s easy to forget that we should be thankful for what we have and think about what we want instead. Our desires for things we want can take over our hearts and keep us from showing thankfulness. God has given us all that we need and more. He has provided people in our lives to take care of us and we should be thankful

for them. Each of these examples gave us ideas of how we can show thankfulness, and times when we do not show thankfulness. Can you think of any other examples? (Allow responses.) Have you ever complained about something someone gave you? (Allow responses.)

Am I Like the Israelites?



The purpose is for the campers to see if their hearts are like the Israelite's hearts.

Supplies:

"Am I Like the Israelites?" poster (1 per session)

Go through the poster as a class. Have the campers give ideas of situations in their life where something has been given to them or has happened to them (for example, a house to live in; birthday presents they did not want; vegetables for dinner; share bedroom with a sibling; sibling gets ice cream with mom; etc). Write these situations down and then go through each one and ask the campers how they would respond to each one. Use the white board if you need to.

Tie It Together



How are you like the Israelites? Are there times in your life when you are not thankful or grateful? Why? God wants us to know that we deserve nothing, but He is still gracious to provide for us. We can have thankful and grateful hearts because God provides everything we need and more!

Thank You Lord!



The purpose is for the campers to show what they are thankful for.

Supplies:

Large envelope (1 per session)

Piece of paper from earlier (1 per camper)

Pull out the large envelope and tell the campers that this will be your "Thank You, Lord!" keepsake. Each camper will be able to write something they are thankful for on the smiley face side of the piece of paper from earlier. Have them put these it in the envelope. The envelope will stay in the classroom so that each week the campers can add more things they are thankful for. After a month (or however long each cabin wants to do), the cabin can spend some time reading through all of the things that each one is thankful for.

Tie It Together



There are many ways we can show our thankfulness to God for all He has done for us. We can pray and tell Him thank you and share with others. Anytime we recognize a blessing God has given us, we should thank Him for it. This envelope will be one way we can show our thankfulness to God. Starting today, we are going to write down (or draw a picture of) anything we are thankful for, and put that piece of paper in the envelope. Each week anyone can add to the envelope, and after a month or two we will pull the envelope out, and read all of the things we are thankful for as a reminder of how

God has provided for us. It will be an encouragement to see all of the different things we are thankful for, and will remind us to continue to recognize all God has given us!

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer with your campers, asking God to help us be more thankful for all He has given us.



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