

Materials I Need:

Key for symbols:

- This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow way down for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 8:9: Be careful that your freedom does not become a stumbling block.

Hook:


- Teacher Tip:** Encourage your classroom helpers by giving them specific jobs during class time. Give them clear instructions of the **Hook** centers they will be supervising. These can be written or given verbally. Ask your helpers to do specific jobs during snack time, restroom break, or transition time. Use your helpers as extra eyes, ears, and hands to redirect inappropriate behavior during teaching times. It is important they know your classroom rules so they will be a support to your teaching style.
- The Golden Earrings Center:** Set up an area with a stand-up mirror and costume jewelry. Try to include clip on gold earrings along with bracelets, rings, and necklaces. Help the children put the jewelry on and look in the mirror. "In today's Bible Adventure, the Israelites complained about God and made an idol for themselves. They melted their jewelry and made an idol in the shape of a golden calf. Paul tells the Corinthians to be thankful to God for what He has given them and to not worship idols like the Israelites did."
- Serpent (or Snake) Center:** Bring picture books of snakes and talk about how some snakes are poisonous and can kill people when they bite them. Also provide some rubber snakes and rattlesnake rattlers to look at and hold. Tell the children that not all snake bites kill people. Talk about and show pictures of snakes that might live near their homes that are not poisonous. "In today's Bible Adventure, God got angry listening to the Israelite people complaining and watching them worship idols. He sent poisonous snakes to punish the people."
- Picture Puzzles:** "Today's Bible Adventure talks about complaining. Complaining is a sin. I will give you half of a picture and you tell me what you think the picture is. We will be careful not to complain that we can't see the whole picture. We'll just do the best we can and make a guess. It is the same with God. Sometimes we can't see what God is doing for us, but we must not complain while we wait." Choose three or four pictures of big, bright, colorful, familiar things. Cut each in half (or three or four pieces) with a wavy or zig-zag line. Show a child half of a picture. Ask her what she thinks the picture will be. Hand her the other half and let her put it together. Talk about the whole picture. If this is too easy for a child, let her work with more than one picture at a time or cut each picture into three or four pieces.
- Play Dough:** Make tubes and small balls of dough to make happy and sad faces. Talk about being punished and sad when we complain and happy when we ask Jesus for forgiveness and are thankful.
- Review:** Choose a **Look** from last week that you didn't have time for and use it to review with the children what Paul has been discussing with the Corinthians.

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- Crawl Like a Snake Center:** Set up two or three items for the children to scoot under on their tummies. Encourage them as they work and let them know when part of their body touches the obstacle it is supposed to miss. "In today's Bible Adventure, God sent snakes to punish the Israelite people when they sinned against Him by complaining. It is a sin to complain. Complaining is not being satisfied with what God has given us. Snakes stay close to the ground and move on their tummies just like we are doing now."
 - "Escape from Slavery" Bible Story:** Read a simple Bible story book with pictures about the Israelites leaving Egypt and being led and fed in the wilderness. Talk about how good God was to rescue the Israelites and how thankful they were to be free from slavery. Then talk about how it wasn't long before they started complaining about the manna and wanted to go back to Egypt where they liked the food better.
 - Happy Sad Game:** "Today we are going to talk about sad people who were complaining and grumbling rather than being thankful and happy. When God saw the Israelites complaining, He punished them." Have the children color happy and sad faces, one per sheet of paper. Tape the papers to the floor in a winding path, with no more than one or two sad faces together. The object of the game is to walk along the path following a leader without touching a sad, complaining face. If they step on a sad face, they sit out awhile.
 - Idol Bowling:** Using paper or tall milk cartons, make bowling pins that look like idols. (There are bowling balls and bowling pins in the Children's Workroom.) Let the children take turns knocking down all the idols they can. "The Israelites were worshiping idols and they got in trouble."
 - "Stop Complaining" Action Song:** *(tune: "Frere Jacques")*
 Stop complaining. Stop complaining. *(Sad, mad face, hands cup mouth.)*
 It's a sin. It's a sin. *(Slap hand.)*
 I need to be thankful. I need to be thankful. *(Be happy, fold hands as if praying.)*
 Yes, I do. Yes, I do. *(Clap rhythm.)*
 - Behavior Stickers:** Today the children will learn that complaining is a sin and deserves punishment. Explain to the children that when you hear them complaining during the morning, you will give them a sad face sticker; but if you hear them say "thank you" for something, you will give them a happy face sticker. Praise them at the end of the day reminding them to ask Jesus for forgiveness when they complain.
 - "The Three Bears" Book:** Read a simple version of "The Three Bears" to the children in your small group. At the appropriate times during the story, stop and ask, "Who is complaining here?" The answer will always be "Goldilocks." "Complaining means not being satisfied with what God has provided for us. In today's Bible Adventure, Paul tells the Corinthians to stop complaining and to be thankful to God for what He has given them in Christ."
 - ④ **Magazine Pictures:** Let children find magazine pictures of things they might complain about like food they don't like, time to go to bed, television programs they can't watch, brother or sister that makes them angry, teeth they have to brush, room they have to clean, job they are asked to do, toys they can't have, friend they can't have over right now, nap they have to take, etc. Glue the pictures on a large sheet of butcher paper and fasten it to the wall. Use this later. As the children walk by and see a picture that reminds them of something at home they might complain about, have them stop and thank God for something they do have.



Book:
Presentation Ideas -

- Color the **1CO07ECGF1, 1CO07ECGF2, 1CO07ECGF3, 1CO07ECGF4, 1CO07ECGF5,** and **1CO07ECGF6** pictures and glue them onto colored construction paper. Show these pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save them for review in future lessons.
- Manna Demonstration:** Cut out small circles of white bread and roll them flat with a rolling pin. Show the "manna" to the children during the first part of the Bible Adventure. Include baskets of "manna" as part of your snack so the children can sample it.

 **Complainers Role Play:** Ask two leaders to sit in the story circle with the children on chairs that are too small for them. Before the teacher starts, have the two leaders complain out loud about their small chairs, that they're hungry, that someone has a prettier dress, etc. After a couple of minutes of complaining, the teacher asks the class what the two leaders are doing. (Complaining.) Does God want us to complain? (No.) God wants us to be thankful for what we have. The two leaders can then apologize and be eager to hear what Paul tells the Corinthians.

 **"We Will Not Forget God's Word" Finger Play:**

We will not forget God's Word. *(Shake head "no.")*

That is where His voice is heard.

If we listen and obey, *(Cup ear.)*

We'll be happy every day. *(Clap and smile.)*

We will not complain and groan, *(Make sad and mad faces.)*

Cry and fuss and sit alone. *(Dry eyes.)*

If we have a thankful smile, *(Smile.)*

We'll be happy all the while. *(Clap and smile.)*

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-

Paul continued his letter to the Corinthian Christians telling them their freedom should not let them forget about God. Paul told them to set their hearts on God alone and not worship other things. He reminded them of what had happened to the Israelites in the desert. The Israelites were fed manna every day from God. *(Hold up some bread circles for the children to see.)* But the people got tired of manna and complained to Moses. They grumbled and complained about how God was taking care of them. They said, "Moses, we don't like it out here in the wilderness. It's the same thing every day! All we ever get is manna, and we're tired of it! God must not care about us any more!"

(Show the 1CO07ECGF1 picture.) God's people, the Israelites, should have been thankful to God. He had taken them out of slavery in Egypt. He led them through the desert and fed them manna every day. But they complained because they wanted more. Complaining is a sin. The Israelites filled their hearts full of complaining. They did not set their hearts on God. *(Shake head "no.")* In the desert the Israelites made an idol in the shape of a calf. It was made out of their golden earrings, and the people started dancing and worshiping the calf. They said the calf had brought them out of Egypt! This was a terrible sin against God after all He had done for them.

(Show the 1CO07ECGF2 picture.) God was very angry with the Israelites for complaining and then saying it was the golden calf who brought them out of Egypt. As a punishment, God sent snakes among the people; and many of the Israelites were bitten by the snakes. Many people died from the snake poison. The Israelites knew that God was punishing them. They had not set their hearts on God or pleasing Him. They were sorry they had complained and sinned against God. *(Make a sad face.)* They went to their leader, Moses, and asked him to pray to God to take away the snakes.

(Show the 1CO07ECGF3 picture.) Moses did pray to God. God is always loving when people ask to be forgiven for their sin. He said to Moses, "Put a snake on a pole and pound the pole into the ground. If a person who has been bitten by a snake is truly sorry for his sins, then when he looks at the pole, that sick person will get well."

(Show the 1CO07ECGF4 picture.) God was loving and gave the people a way of getting well rather than dying. If a sick person was sorry for making God angry and looked at the snake that was hanging on the pole, he would get well.

(Show the 1CO07ECGF5 picture.) Paul said to the Corinthians, "Don't be like the Israelites who were selfish and complaining. God has given you Jesus who gives you eternal life if you look to Him. God always helps His children to be thankful when they might want to complain. He helps them so they won't stumble into sin."

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for helping us not to complain and helping us to be thankful for all You do for us. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-

(Show the review 1CO06ECGF5 picture.) Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians, "You are free to buy and eat the meat that is offered to idols. There is nothing wrong with that meat as long as your conscience is free and clear. But be careful to think of other people's consciences, too. Idolatry is a sin, and you must not encourage anyone to be tempted to worship idols."

(Show the 1CO07ECGF1 picture.) Paul said, "Remember what happened to the Israelites in the wilderness when they complained to Moses about how tired they were of the manna God was sending them every day to eat. They complained and grumbled about how God was taking care of them. They said, "Moses, we don't like it out here in the wilderness. It's the same thing every day! All we ever get is manna, and we're tired of it! God must not care about us anymore or He would do something!"

(Show the 1CO07ECGF2 picture.) Rather than being thankful for the fact that God had taken them out of slavery in Egypt and was leading them and feeding them, they complained. They wanted more. Their hearts were full of complaining; and so while Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Ten Commandments on tablets, the Israelites were down at the bottom of the mountain begging to worship an idol. They made a calf out of their golden earrings and started dancing around the golden calf. This was idolatry and a terrible sin against God after all He had done for them.

(Show the 1CO07ECGF3 picture.) God was very angry with the Israelites for complaining. As a punishment, God sent snakes among the people; and many of the Israelites were bitten by the snakes and died from the snake poison.

(Show the 1CO07ECGF4 picture.) When the Israelites realized that God was punishing them for the sin of having an unthankful, complaining attitude, they went to Moses and said, "We're sorry we sinned against God. Pray to Him to forgive us and take away our punishment." Moses did pray to God. God is always merciful when people repent and ask for help. He said to Moses, "Put a snake on a pole and pound the pole into the ground. If a person who has been bitten by a snake is truly sorry for his sins, then when he looks at the pole, that sick person will get well."

(Show the 1CO07ECGF5 picture.) God was merciful and gave the people a way of getting well rather than dying. If a person was sorry for making God angry and looked at the snake that was hanging on the pole, he would be saved."

(Show the 1CO07ECGF6 picture.) Paul said, "Don't be like the Israelites who were unhappy and complaining. God has given you Jesus who gives you eternal life if you look to Him. He always gives His children a way of doing the right thing when they feel like complaining. He helps them so that they won't stumble into sin."

(Show the review 1CO06ECGF7 picture.) Paul continued, "So don't be like the Israelites who selfishly thought only of themselves and what they wanted. Their consciences were not clean and they even encouraged each other to complain. God gives you all you need to keep your conscience clean. He forgives you when you look to Jesus. He helps you think about other people and their consciences. He helps you be thankful when you are tempted to be selfish and complaining."

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for making a way for us to have a clean conscience and a happy heart. Jesus helps us not to be selfish, but to think of other people first. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Aim Questions

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. **Who provided manna for the Israelites to eat in the desert?** (God.)
2. **Who complained against God and made a golden calf to worship instead of God?** (Israelites)
3. **Who are we to be thankful to and not complain against?** (God, Jesus.)

Aim Questions for 4's & 5's:

1. **Instead of the Israelites being thankful that God had taken them out of slavery in Egypt, what did they do?** (They complained and made a golden calf to worship.)
2. **How did God punish the Israelites when they kept complaining?** (Snakes bit them, and many died.)
3. **What did God do for the Israelites who repented and asked for help?** (When the Israelites who were sorry looked at the snake on the pole, they got well.)
4. **What should we do when we feel like complaining?** (Look to Jesus for help. Be thankful, not complaining.)



Look:

- Aim Questions:** Serve flattened bread rounds in a basket, explaining it would be close to eating manna. (A drop or two of honey could also be added.) “Serve” the **Aim Questions** in another basket and discuss them while the children are eating their manna.
- Snack Singing:** Serve something that you serve often, like graham crackers, and talk about being thankful for whatever we have whether it is at home or at church. Sing the memory verse together. Tell the children that when we complain and grumble, we make others unhappy and could cause our friend to sin, too, if he starts complaining.
- Transition Idea:** Have the children walk around the room with an unhappy look and shake their fists to show how dissatisfied they are. This would be a complaining person. On the return trip, have the children walk smiling and waving at other children. This is a thankful person.
- God Provided Manna: (1CO07ECGF7)** Materials needed: Black construction paper, a small potato (1-2") cut in half, white tempera paint, salt in a shaker, glue sticks, GF7 words. Let the children dip the potato into the paint and dot the paper with circles. Before the paint is dry, shake some salt over the paper. Discard the excess salt. The manna now sparkles. Review the **Aim Questions** as the children paint their manna pages. Glue the GF7 words at the bottom of the page, "The Israelites sinned against God when they complained about manna."
- “Don’t Complain” Booklet: (1CO07ECGF8 and 1CO07ECGF9)** Give each child a GF8 and GF9 page that has been folded in fourths and stapled together on the left side to make a booklet. If time allows, let the children color the pictures in the booklet. Explain to the children that a heart of complaining is a sin because it leads us to look to other things beside God to make us happy. Encourage the children to ask their parents to pray for them when they are tempted to complain.
- Memory Verse Activity:** Seat the children in a circle or line where they will be able to jump up and perform an activity and return to their seat in the appropriate time. Give one child a list of three tasks to perform while the class is singing the **Memory Verse Song**. The child chosen listens to his three instructions (touch the piano, open my Bible, touch Rhonda’s shoe), jumps up and does them while the class sings the **Memory Verse Song** and tries to get back to his seat before the class is done singing. Repeat as interest allows.
- “Look to Jesus” Game:** Materials needed: Flashlight, pictures of Jesus and the cross, and tape. Turn off the lights and ask the children questions about who they should look to when they are complaining. When they say, "We should look to Jesus," then light the picture on the wall with the flashlight. Use the story from today's Bible Adventure to get a list of questions to use for this game.
- “Hide the Manna” Game:** Scatter the children around the classroom and have them lie down to sleep like the Israelites at night. Turn off the lights while one or two leaders move around the sleeping children and scatter manna (white circles of paper). Turn on the lights and have the children gather the manna that has been provided for them. “Who provided the manna for the Israelites to eat?” (*God.*) “Who complained about the manna?” (*Israelites.*) Repeat as time allows.
- How Thankful Is Our Class?** Put a large piece of butcher paper titled “Our Thankful Class” on each table and let children draw their own faces on it, using markers to color their eyes. You might let them trace around small paper plates to make the face. Next measure each of their mouths with a piece of yarn that you cut as big as their smiles are. Let the children glue this on the paper under their eyes. Write the child’s name under their happy face. Leave this up until next week to use as review.
- Complaining and Forgiveness Game:** To the tune of “Ring Around the Rosie,” let the children sing and spin their bodies around until they fall down at the last sentence. Make sure they are spaced far enough apart so that they don’t touch each other.
Complaining about our food,
Complaining about our food,
Complaining and whining,
We all fall down.
(Repeat and change the complaining to other things like our jobs, naps, brother, bedtime, etc.)

Asking for forgiveness, *(Children kneel and pray.)*
Asking for forgiveness,
Now we are thankful and *(Put on smiley faces.)*
We all stand up. *(Children stand.)*

Circle Game: To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," act out the following:

Skip, skip, skip and tap.
Keep the circle round.
Scratch your head, fold your arms,
And then you touch the ground.

Slide, slide, slide and tap.
Then we'll do some more.
Pull your ear, pat your foot,
And then you touch the floor.

Complain, complain, complain and stop. *(Look mad and clap.)*
Be thankful all the time. *(Fold hands as if praying.)*
Rub your knee, wave your arms,
And stand in a straight line.

Thank, thank, thank the Lord. *(Fold hands as if praying.)*
Thank Him all the time
For your family, for your food.
Now sit in a straight line.

Following this activity, talk about complaining being a sin and things we are tempted to complain about. Pray together giving thanks to God for helping us not complain.

④ **Feel in the Bag:** Place several items that children tend to complain about in a bag. Include cleaning tools and rags, pillow case for making a bed, toys to pick up or toys they might want to own, a clock to represent the time to be in bed, a toothbrush, pillow, cans of food they don't like, etc. One at a time let the children feel in the bag, guess what it is without looking, and then show it to the class. "How might this item make you complain? How can you be thankful for this item?"

Songs:

1 Corinthians 8:9 Memory Verse Song *(tune: "Pop Goes the Weasel")*

First Corinthia-ans eight, nine.
"Be careful that your freedom
Does not become a stumbling block."
First Corinthians eight, nine.

God Will Take Care of You *(revised)*

Do not complain whate'er happens, God will take care of you;
Beneath His wings of love abide, God will take care of you.
God will take care of you, Thro' every day, O'er all the way;
He will take care of you, God will take care of you.

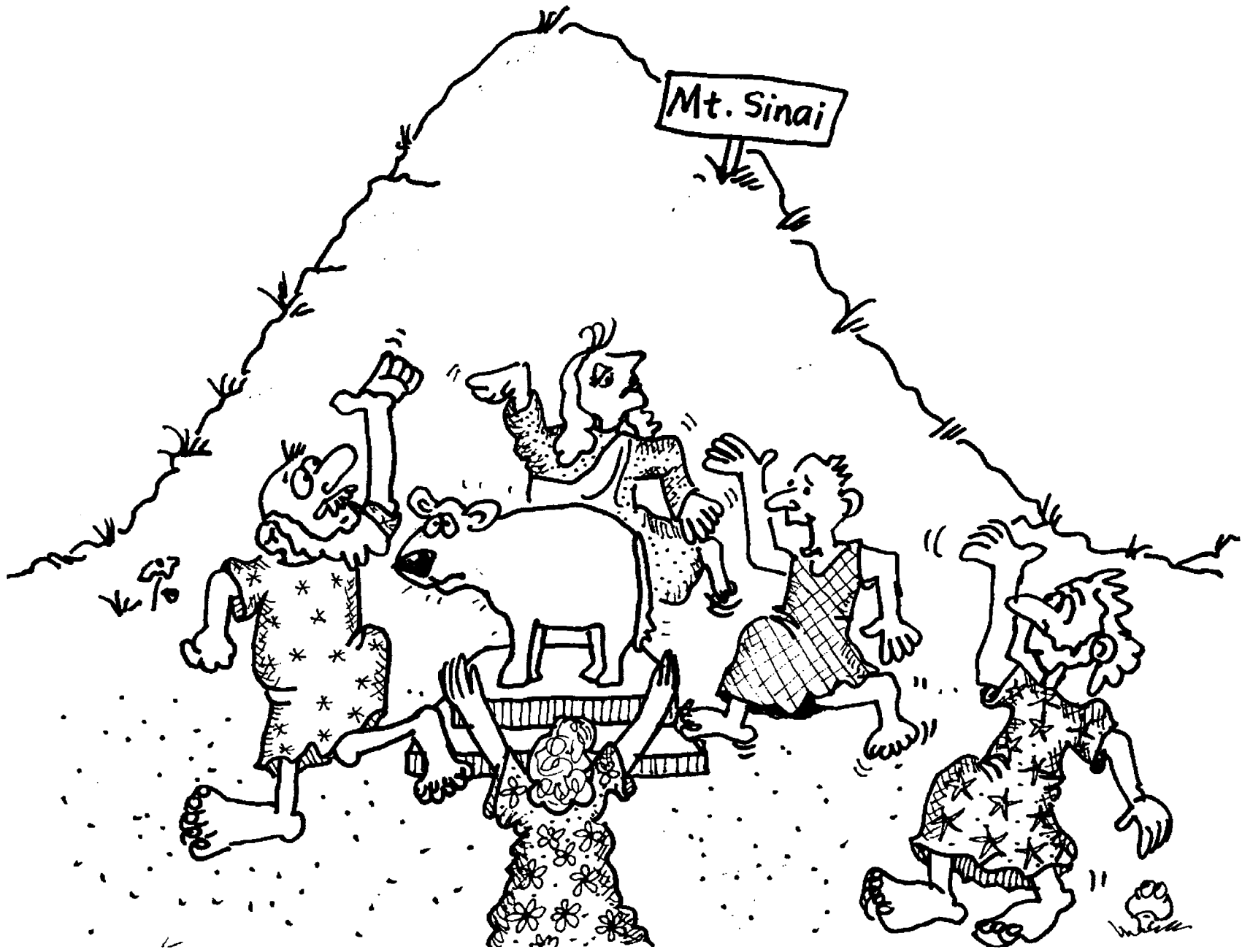


Took:

- Daily Sticker Page: (1CO07ECGF11 and last week's 1CO06ECGF13)** Let the children color the happy and sad faces from last week's lesson that have been copied on laser label paper. Give each child one half of a sheet to take home with his GF11 weekly calendar. Stamp happy faces around the calendar as a frame. Every time the children complain this week, they put a sad face sticker on the calendar. When they are thankful and don't complain, they put a happy face sticker on the calendar.
- Being Thankful All the Time: (1CO07ECGF10)** Write clock numbers around the edge of a 9" paper plate. Trace around each child's hand (fingers together) on construction paper and cut out. Place a GF10 sticker on the hand and attach the hand to the middle of the clock with a brad paper fastener. Talk about different things the children can be thankful for throughout the day that they might be tempted to complain about.
- ④ **Which Can Become Idols? (1CO07ECGF12)** Materials needed: GF12 activity page, crayons, glue sticks, pennies, bacon bits, and glitter. Give each child an activity page to color. Then let them glue pennies on the money bags, bacon bits on the meat, and glitter on the golden calf. As the children are working on their papers, talk about which of the items on the page could become idols in our hearts. "In today's Bible Adventure we learned about the Old Testament Israelites who were complaining and unhappy about their lives and wanted a golden calf to give them what they wanted. Sometimes we desire idols rather than wanting what God gives us.
- Preschool Page for Parents: (1CO07ECPPP)** Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



The Israelites complained about the manna God gave them every day.



God was angry when the Israelites worshiped the golden calf.



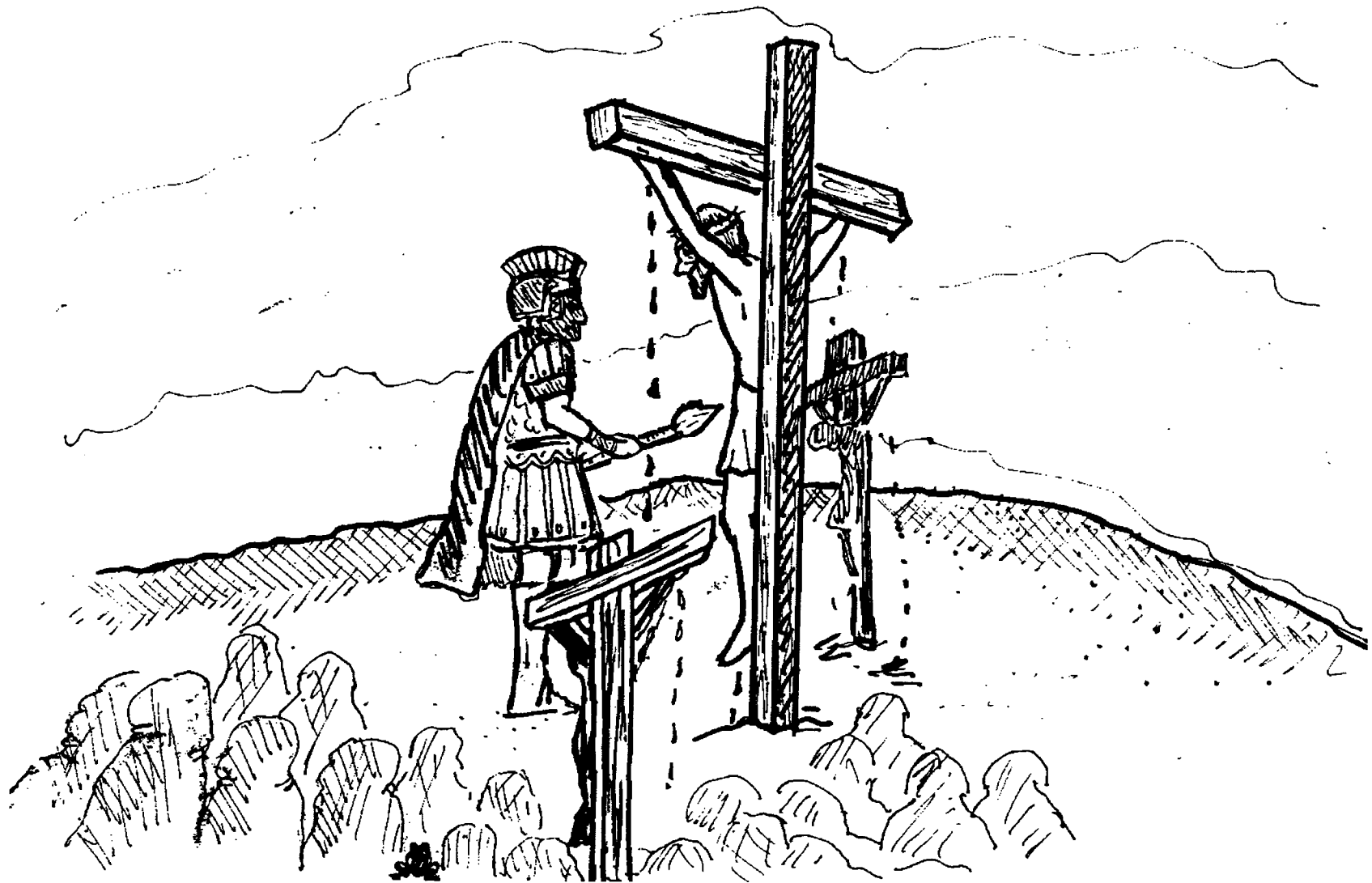
When the snakes bit the Israelites, they cried to God for help.



God said, "Put a snake on a pole and have the sick people look at it."



When the Israelites obeyed God, He made the sick people well.



When people look to Jesus who took the punishment for their sins, Jesus gives them eternal life.

The Israelites sinned against God when they complained about manna.

The Israelites sinned against God when they complained about manna.

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The Israelites sinned against God when they complained about manna.

7.

Jesus takes good care of His children
so there is no need to complain.



2.

The Israelites complained about the
manna God gave them every day.

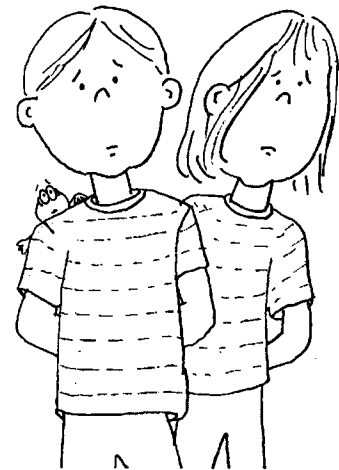


This book
belongs to

8.

1C007ECGF8

Complaining is a sin!

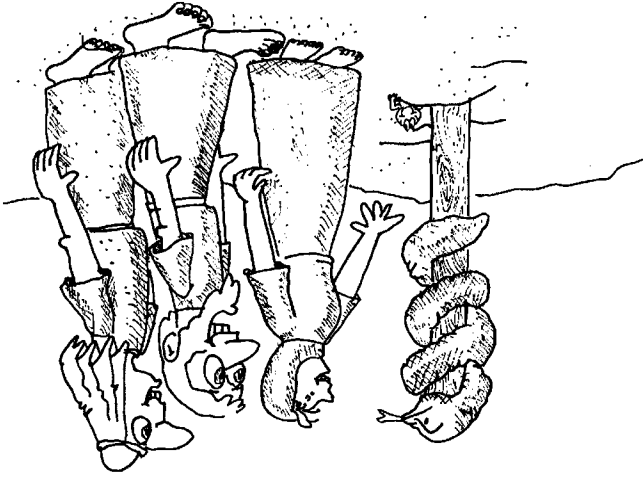


Complaining is wrong because it
shows an unthankful heart for
what God has given.

1.

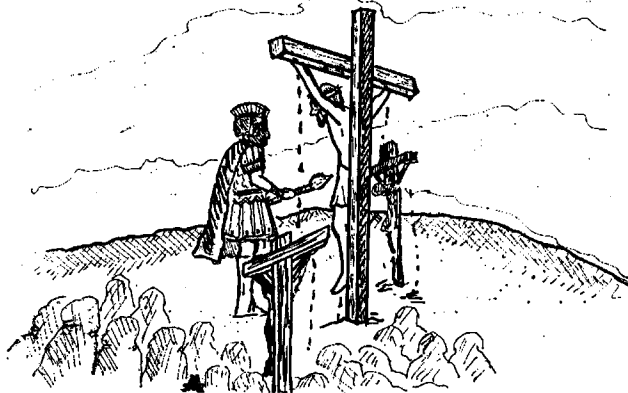
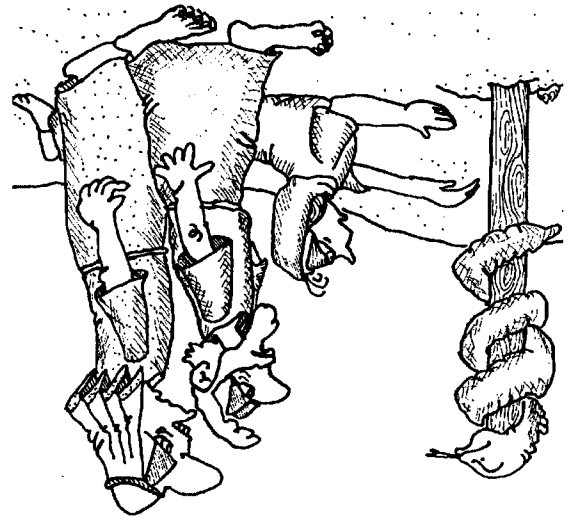
5.

Those who obeyed God and looked at the snake on a pole got well.



4.

When the Israelites got sick from snake poison, they cried to God for help. God told them to look at a snake on a pole.



God gives people a way to "get well" from the sickness of sin. Those who look to Jesus for help will live.

6.



God punished the complaining Israelites by sending snakes to bite them.

3.

Living Right for Jesus

When I complain and grumble, I receive a sad sticker; but when I am agreeable and thankful, I earn a happy sticker.

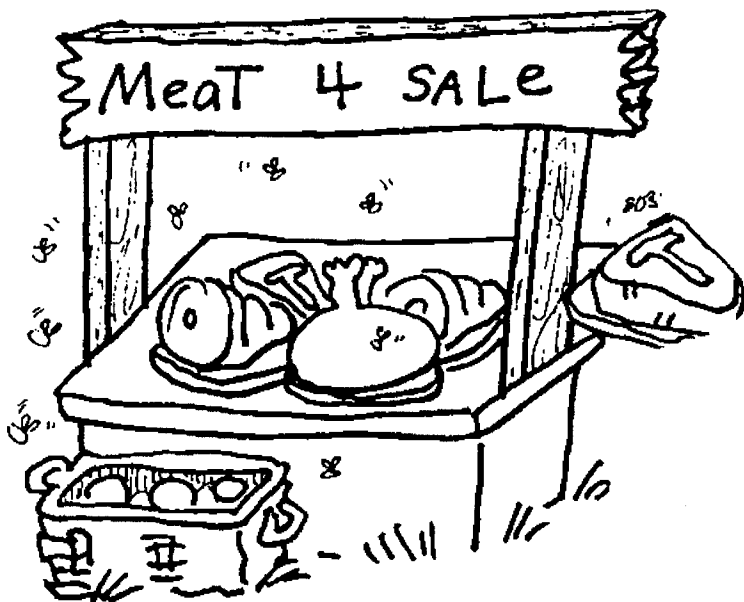
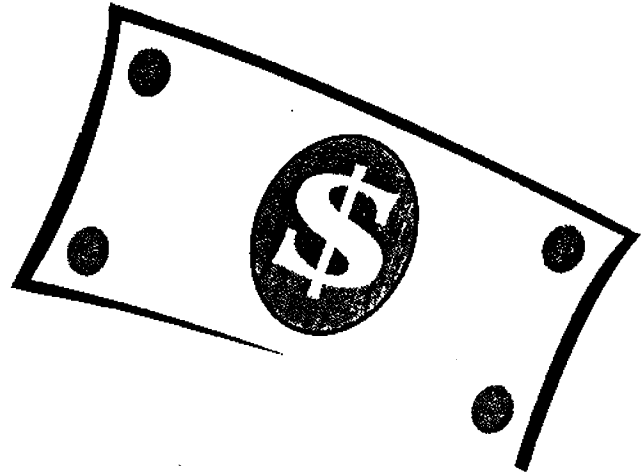
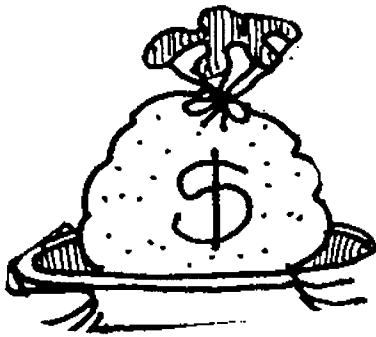


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

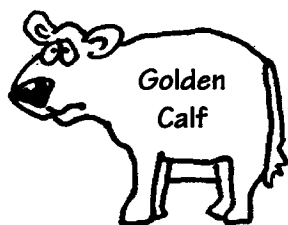
Be careful that your freedom does not become a stumbling block. 1 Corinthians 8:9

Which Can Become Idols in Our Hearts?

Glue a penny on each of the money pictures, bacon bits on the meat, and glitter on the golden calf.



May 19, 2002
First Corinthians Chapter 10



This is what I learned today!

Paul told the Corinthians it was a sin to worship idols or to encourage anyone else to worship idols. Paul reminded them of the Israelites in the desert who complained about how God was taking care of them. Complaining is a sin. God had brought the Israelites safely out of Egypt from slavery. He fed them manna in the desert every day. But their hearts were full of complaining instead of being thankful to God, and they made a golden calf to worship. God was angry with the Israelites for worshiping an idol and sent snakes among the people. When many people died from snake bites, the Israelites realized God was punishing them. When they asked for forgiveness, God was loving and gave the people a way of getting well rather than dying. Paul told the Corinthians not to complain like the Israelites. God gave them Jesus to help them be thankful and not want to complain.

Today's Memory Verse

**Be careful that your
freedom does not become
a stumbling block.
1 Corinthians 8:9**

Stop Complaining!



Complaining is a sin because it shows an ungrateful heart for what God has given. As you teach your preschool children not to complain, sing the following words to the tune "Frere Jacques." Add facial expressions and hand gestures that coordinate with the words. Each time your child complains (whines, begs) this week, sing the song. Then remind him what happened to the Israelites when they complained about what God had given them. Stop and pray with your child. Ask God to help you be thankful when you are tempted to complain.

Stop Complaining

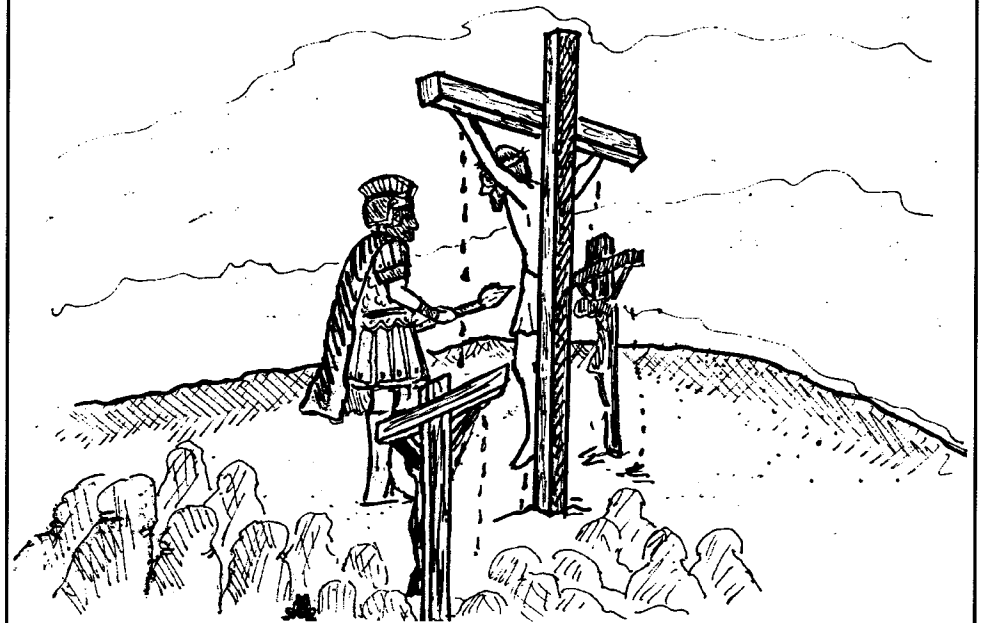
(tune: "Frere Jacques")

**Stop complaining. Stop complaining.
It's a sin. It's a sin.
I need to be thankful.
I need to be thankful.
Yes, I do. Yes, I do.**

* For tunes to songs, ask about the preschool tape.



When the Israelites complained in the wilderness, God punished them by sending snakes. When the repentant people asked God for help, He made a way for them to live. (Numbers 21:4-9)



God gives His people a way to live forever with Him when they look to Jesus for help.