

Materials I Need:

Memory Verse:

Remember all the commands of the Lord, that you may obey them. Numbers 15:39

Attribute of God emphasized in this lesson: God is faithful to punish and forgive His people.

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. **Let's say "Numbers" several times to remember the book of the Bible that we are learning from today.** (*Clap the name, whisper the name, and shout the name. Then do the same with the names of the first four books of the Bible.*)
2. **Did the Israelites complain about food in the desert?** (*Yes. The Israelites were tired of manna and wanted the foods they had eaten in Egypt.*)
3. **Did God send men to explore the land of Canaan?** (*Yes. Twelve men went to see what Canaan was like.*)
4. **Did God punish the Israelites for not obeying God's command to go to Canaan?** (*Yes. The Israelites were afraid and wanted to go back to Egypt instead of obeying God by going to Canaan. God punished them by making them stay in the desert for forty more years.*)
5. **Did God say that Caleb and Joshua could live in the land of Canaan?** (*Yes. Caleb and Joshua believed that God would keep His promise to give them the land of Canaan. They were the only Israelites who obeyed God's command.*)

Aim Questions for 4's, 5's & K:

1. **What is the name of the Bible book we learned from today and last week?** (*Numbers. Name the first four books of the Bible. Repeat throughout the class time.*)
2. **What did the twelve men find when they explored the land of Canaan?** (*The twelve men found a land flowing with milk, honey, and huge grapes. They also found strong men and some giants.*)
3. **Which two men remembered God's power and believed that God would give the Israelites the land He had promised them?** (*Joshua and Caleb remembered God's command and obeyed.*)
4. **What was God's punishment for disbelieving, disobeying Israelites?** (*God made the complaining quail-eaters sick and He said that only Joshua and Caleb could enter the land of Canaan. The rest would stay in the desert for forty years until they died.*)
5. **Do you believe that God will do what He says in the Bible? Do you complain or do you obey God?**


Key for symbols:

This box symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow down the pace for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.

② This symbol represents ideas that are best used for two- and three-year-olds.

④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Hook:

-  **Camping in the Desert:** If the children enjoyed last week's "Camping in the Desert" activity, set up five tables again, blow the horn, and follow the cloud. Remind the children that the Israelites were in the desert on their way to the land of Canaan that God had promised them.
- ② **"Land of Canaan" Food Center:** Materials needed: Pictures of food cut from magazines, inexpensive paper plates, liquid glue, cotton swabs. Have the children choose pictures of their favorite foods and paste them onto their paper plate after smearing it with the glue. In today's Bible Adventure, the Israelites are close to the promised land of Canaan! They find the land to have wonderful large grapes and other good food.
- ② **"Land of the Giants" Center:** Provide several soft balls and a target on the wall (outline of an adult giant). Have the children stand five to ten feet away from the wall and throw the balls at the target. When Moses sent twelve men to explore the land of Canaan, ten of them came back and told the Israelites that the people in Canaan were like giants because they were so big and strong.
- ② **"Cloud" Center:** Materials needed: Vinyl tablecloth, shaving cream, five or six T-shirts, clean-up towels. After putting on a T-shirt, place a dollop of shaving cream in front of each participant. Encourage them to make designs on the table with the cream just as the clouds make designs in the sky. If it dries out, add a little water to make it more manageable. God continued to lead the Israelites from His cloud toward the promised land of Canaan. Today's Bible Adventure tells of the people coming near Canaan.
- ② **Exploration Station:** Bring toy rockets, space ships, astronaut books, etc., to class for the children to look at, play with, or read. Talk about exploring space and that it is a place not easily seen so we send rockets and satellites to outer space to take pictures. In today's Bible Adventure, Moses sends twelve explorers into the land of Canaan who were to find out all they could about the land, the people living there, the food, and the water.
- ④ **Manna Pick Up Relay Game:** Divide the class into two teams. On the opposite side of the room, spread confetti (manna) on a piece of newsprint for each team. Give the first child in line on each team a cup. The children hop (skip, jump, walk, walk backwards) to the manna, and using the spoons available there, place a spoonful of confetti into their cups. The object is to carry it back (being careful to not spill any!) and place it into the bowl or container provided. When one team fills their bowl, they are the winners. Tell the children that God provided manna each day and still the Israelites complained.
- ④ **Kitchen Center:** With bowls, spoons, measuring cups and spoons, muffin pans, and a play oven, pretend to be making bread or small cakes. Talk about God's provisions for the Israelites who soon forgot and complained.
- ④ **Coloring the Twelve Explorers: (1NUM02ECGF1)** Each child receives the sheet with the twelve explorers. Let the children color ten sad faces and two happy faces. Two men remembered God's promise to give them the land and His power to be their helper. When the children listen to the Bible Adventure, they will find out what these twelve men found on their expedition.
- ④ **Get the Manna in the Mouth!** Give each child a small plastic bag of miniature marshmallows. Draw a large happy face on a piece of butcher paper to fit the top of a large pail. Cut out the mouth and tape it on around the sides. Let children stand with their toes on a line and drop the manna into the pail.
- ④ **Grumbling Puppets:** Let a couple of puppets have a discussion about the food they get or don't get. They grumble and complain to each other. They might tell about an escapade to a neighbor's where they saw huge people, bunnies, etc., and came home very scared. Tell the children that the Bible Adventure today will tell about some grumbling Israelites and some huge people that they encounter nearby.



Book:
Presentation Ideas -

- Color and mount the **1NUM02ECGF1**, **1NUM02ECGF2**, and **1NUM02ECGF3** pictures on construction paper. Show them as you tell the Bible Adventure. Save your Numbers pictures to use during the book of Deuteronomy.
- Bring a mortar and pestle or hand mill to grind seeds. The Israelites ground manna every day to cook in pots or to make bread cakes.
- Make faces and act out complaining words as you tell about the complaining Israelites.

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-

In the Bible book of Numbers, the Israelites were following God's cloud toward the land of Canaan. (*Show the GF1 picture.*) God sent manna on the ground every morning for the Israelites to feed their families.

The Israelites should have been thankful for their food, but they were not thankful. They all began complaining, "We're tired of manna! We're hungry for fish and watermelon like we ate in Egypt." (*Say, "Grumble, grumble, grumble."*)

Moses heard the Israelites wailing and grumbling in front of their tents. God heard the Israelites complaining, too, and God was not happy with them.

(*Show the GF2 picture.*) The Lord said to Moses, "Send twelve men to explore the land of Canaan, which I have promised to give to the Israelites." Moses chose twelve men and said, "Go to Canaan and find out about the people living there and what the land is like. Bring back some of the fruit, if you can."

The twelve men walked up to Canaan and explored the land. They cut off a branch of huge grapes to take back to Moses. It took two men to carry one cluster of grapes, the grapes were so big. The land of Canaan was a good place to live.

The twelve men walked back to Moses and Aaron. They showed the grapes and said, "It is a good land for us."

Ten of the twelve men said, "The people in Canaan are like giants! We can't take away their land; they are stronger than we are."

The Israelites were afraid when they heard about the giants in the land of Canaan. They cried out loud and grumbled at Moses and Aaron. They said, "We want to go back to Egypt."

(*Show the GF3 picture.*) Two men, Joshua and Caleb, were sad to hear what the Israelites were saying. Joshua and Caleb said, "God is stronger than giants. Do not be afraid of the people in the land of Canaan because the Lord will help us."

The people wouldn't listen to Joshua and Caleb. They forgot the miracles that God had done in Egypt--how the water made a wall so that the people could walk through the Red Sea on dry land. They didn't want to thank God for the manna that God gave them every day.

The Lord was very angry with the Israelites. He said to Moses, "I will punish these people. These people will stay in the desert for forty years.

"Only two men, Joshua and Caleb, will go live in the land of Canaan. They will go because they said, 'God is faithful to keep His promises.'"

The Israelites cried again when they heard that they could not go to Canaan. They didn't remember to obey God's commands. I want to remember God's commands (*Hold up your Bible.*) and obey them. (*Review the memory verse.*)

Prayer: Dear God, You were faithful to feed Your Israelite people even when they complained. You were faithful to punish them when they disobeyed. You are faithful to us today, too. Thank You, in Jesus' name, Amen.

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

(*Show the GF1 picture.*) In the Bible book of Numbers, the Israelites were following God's cloud toward the land of Canaan. God sent manna on the ground every morning for the Israelites to feed their families. The Israelites gathered the tiny seeds and ground them up or crushed them. They cooked the manna in pots or made bread cakes with it.

The Israelites should have been thankful for their food, but they were not grateful. They all began complaining, "We're hungry for fish like we had in Egypt! We remember the yummy watermelon and vegetables we ate in Egypt. We're tired of manna, manna, manna! If only we had some meat!"

Day after day, the Israelites complained in the desert. (*Say, "Manna, manna, manna!" Have the kids say, "Manna, manna, manna!"*) When the Israelites set up camp, Moses could hear the Israelites wailing and grumbling by their tents. (*Say, "Manna, manna, manna!"*)

God could hear the people, too. God heard the people say, "We liked it better in Egypt." They forgot what God had done for them.

God was angry with the ungrateful Israelites and said to Moses, "Tell the people, 'Tomorrow I will send meat for you to eat. You will not eat meat just one day, or two days, or five days, but for a whole month. You will eat meat until it is coming out of your noses and you hate it because you have complained and complained.'" (Say, "*Grumble, grumble, grumble!*")

The next day, God sent a wind that blew quail in from the sea. Thousands of quail flew low to the ground so that they could be caught. All that day and night and the next day the people went out and gathered quail.

The Israelites cooked the quail, but God punished the complainers who were ungrateful. They got sick and many of them died because they were not satisfied with what God had given them.

When the Israelites came to the Desert of Paran, the Lord said to Moses, "Send twelve men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving the Israelites." Moses chose twelve men and said, "Go to Canaan and find out all about it. Find out who lives there and how they live. Are the men strong or are they weak? Do their towns have walls around them or not? Find out about the land. Is it good soil or poor soil? What kind of trees and fruits are growing there? Bring back some of the fruit, if you can."

(*Show the GF2 picture.*) The twelve men went up and explored the land for forty days. They cut off a branch of grapes to take back to Moses, and it took two men to carry one cluster of grapes, the grapes were so big. The land of Canaan was a good place to live.

The twelve men reported back to Moses and Aaron. They showed the grapes and said, "It is a good land full of milk and honey."

Ten of the twelve men said, "The people in Canaan are like giants! We looked like grasshoppers next to them. We can't take away their land; they are stronger than we are." The ten explorers who were afraid and didn't trust God made the rest of the people afraid.

The Israelites were so afraid when they heard about the giants in the land of Canaan that they cried out loud and grumbled at Moses and Aaron. (Say, "*Grumble, grumble, grumble!*") The grumblers said, "We should have stayed in Egypt!" They didn't believe that God was stronger than the giants in the land of Canaan. Do you believe that God is stronger than anything?

The Israelites said to each other, "Let's go back to Egypt! Let's choose a new leader who will take us back to Egypt."

(*Show the GF3 picture.*) Two men, Joshua and Caleb, were sad to hear what the Israelites were saying. They knew that if God wanted them to have the land, He would keep His promise and give it to them. Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes and said, "God is stronger than giants. He will lead us into the promised land. Do not rebel against the Lord. Do not be afraid of the people in the land of Canaan because the Lord is with us."

The people wouldn't listen to Joshua and Caleb. They wanted to throw stones at them. The Israelites forgot all about God's promise and God's power. They forgot the miracles that God had done in bringing them out of Egypt--the frogs, the hail, and the bugs. They forgot about how the water made a wall so that the people could walk through the Red Sea on dry land. They didn't want to thank God for the manna that fed them every day. They had complaining hearts and angry faces. (Say, "*Grumble, grumble, grumble!*")

Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tabernacle tent. The Lord was very angry with the Israelites. He said to Moses, "These people have disobeyed me ten times in the desert. I will punish these disobedient people. Not one of the rebellious people will set foot in the new land. These people will stay in the desert for forty years until they all die. They have acted like I don't have enough power to take the land from the men living in Canaan. Giants are no problem to Me. I always keep My promises.

"Only two men, Joshua and Caleb, will go live in the land of Canaan. They will go because they believed My words. When I said, 'I am giving this land to you,' they believed Me and said, 'If the Lord is with us, He will give us the land, no problem.'"

When Moses told the Israelites what God had said, they were sad and wailed again. (Say, "*Cry, cry, cry!*") They were always crying and complaining, weren't they? They said, "We will go up to Canaan anyway," and they started out, even though the cloud and the ark stayed where they were in the camp.

Moses said, "Don't go now. God will not be with you. Remember the commands of the Lord and obey them." Some of the men went anyway and were killed by the Canaanites. They were disobeying God's commands again. They didn't remember very well, did they? Let's say the memory verse together.

Prayer: Dear God, You were faithful to feed the Israelites in the desert. You were faithful to punish them when they disobeyed, and You were faithful to forgive them. You are faithful to Your people today, too. Thank You, in Jesus' name, Amen.



Look:

Land of Grapes Activity Page: (1NUM02ECGF1) Let the children glue raisins or craisins on the grapes of their GF1 pictures. Talk about the good land of Canaan, but about the fear of the ten explorers who didn't trust God. Talk about Joshua and Caleb (two men in the lower right corner) and how they trusted God's power to take care of them. They would be the only two men who could go live in the promised land. Sing "Joshua and Caleb" as the children work.

② **Snack:** Serve grapes to represent the fruit that was found in the land of Canaan. They could be presented by being tied to a dowel or stick and carried to each table by two people for the children to be served. The larger the grapes, the better. Serve 1-inch to two-inch diameter circles of flattened white bread to represent manna. Some suggested snack conversations might include: "Do you ever complain about the food your family fixes for you?" or "What could the Israelites have said about all the good food the explorers had found in Canaan?"

② **Aim Questions:** Draw a grapevine on a piece of paper and tape large round grapes on it. Number the grapes from one to five and write the appropriate question on the back. Ask the children to come up one at a time to find and take the number of the question to be asked next.

② **Find the Manna:** Turn off the lights and have the children curl up on the floor face down and hide their eyes. The leaders spread the manna (white paper circles) around the room. In the morning (turn the lights on), everyone gets up to collect manna. Repeat as time allows. The Israelites should have been thankful for the manna from God but they weren't and began to grumble and complain.

② **"On to Canaan" Game:** Needed: Large play area outside with an area marked off (rope on the ground) to represent Egypt. Joshua and Caleb (two leaders) stand with their backs to the class about twenty yards in front of the class which is standing in "Egypt." They say, "Come with us to Canaan!" and motion forward with their arms. The class slowly sneaks up on them and at some point an "Israelite" (teaching leader) answers, "We're too afraid!" at which time Joshua and Caleb turn around and carefully try to catch (tag) an Israelite before he can make it back to "Egypt." The caught "Israelites" wait with Joshua and Caleb while the game is repeated a couple of times.

② **Copy the Teacher's Face:** Have the teacher change her expression as she reads the following lines and have the children copy her. Body language would also be appropriate to use.

"I don't like this kind of meat!" *(Show temper)*

"If only I could choose just what I wanted to eat every day." *(Wistful)*

"You always get a bigger piece of cake than I do!" *(Jealous)*

"Phew! What stinks?!" *(Hold nose)*

"Ugh! This is too sour!" *(Screw up face)*

"What a terrible taste this has!" *(Spit out of mouth)*

Now without using any expressions from the teacher, have the children respond with appropriate facial expression and actions to the following statements:

"This food is too chewy!"

"This is my favorite kind of juice."

"I love chocolate chip cookies!"

"I can't eat this. It's slimy!"

"When I drink pop, the bubbles tickle my nose."

In today's Bible Adventure, the Israelites were grumbling and complaining about what God had given them for food. God heard the Israelites and was not happy with them. God's people today need to be grateful for what God provides for them and learn not to complain and grumble.

④ **I Am Very, Very Tall:** With children standing in a circle and one child in the center, blindfolded, say the following as you rise and bend down appropriately. The one in the center is to guess whether you end up tall or small. Let everyone have a turn being in the middle. Discuss what the twelve explorers found in the new land. Should they have been afraid if someone was taller than they were? Were they remembering God and His power to help them?

I am very, very tall. I am very, very small.

Sometimes small, sometimes tall. Guess what we are now?

④ **Find the Most Quail Stickers: (1NUM02ECGF4)** Copy the GF4 page onto 1" X 2 5/8" laser labels to make quail stickers. All around the room, hidden and in sight, place quail stickers. Give each child a

paper lunch sack and ask them to all begin their hunt at the sound of a whistle or buzzer. When they hear the buzzer again, they stop and return to their place at the table.

- ④ **Quail Stickers and Grumbling Israelites: (1NUM02ECGF4)** Copy the GF4 page onto 1" X 2 5/8" laser labels to make quail stickers. Give each child a sheet of paper on which the memory verse has been written. Let the children stick their quail stickers on it and mix in some stickers of the grumbling Israelites. Talk about how the Israelites quickly forgot what God had done for them. God was faithful to them and would forgive them. God always provided them with just what they needed.
- ④ **Snack:** Serve chicken sandwich spread on crackers while talking about God's provision of manna and quail (that tastes just like chicken!).
- ④ **Edible Play Dough!** Give each child a small plastic bag with his own peanut butter play dough to form into quail (birds) and manna. Keep the dough on the plastic bag on a napkin in front of them! For the dough, mix together equal parts of peanut butter, dry milk powder, Karo syrup, and powdered sugar.
-
- ④ **Duck, Duck, Goose:** Play this game using the words, "Grumble, grumble, go!" First discuss how the Israelites forgot God, grumbled, were afraid, and received punishment. If they had remembered God, they would have gotten to "go" to the promised land.
- ④ **God's Power Chant:** Divide the children into two teams, one on each side of the room. Using the cheerleader chant ("We've got spirit. Yes we do! We've got spirit, how about you?"), substitute the following words and repeat it back and forth. Add different actions (shake fists, stomp feet, stomp and turn around, etc.) as they chant to keep it going!
We don't grumble. No we don't. We don't grumble, how about you?
God is powerful. Yes He is. God is powerful, how about you?
God is faithful. Yes He is. God is faithful, how about you?
- ④ **Whisper Game:** Have children seated in a circle. Send each message to the child on both sides of you and when it meets half way around, everyone can repeat it loudly together! Tell the children that the Israelites forgot all God did for them. We don't want to ever forget God so we are going to whisper a message that we want everyone to know. Messages to share would be as follows: God is powerful. God is faithful. Don't forget God. The memory verse.
- ④ **Acting:** Act out serving someone food that he likes and doesn't like. Talk about how it would make God feel if we complained about what He gave us. Act out seeing a new land full of grapes and then seeing giants! Keep your faith in God. Act out being told to stay out of the land because you disobeyed.

Songs:

Memory Verse Song (tune: "Ring Around the Rosie")
Remember the comma-ands
Of the-e Lo-ord.
Numbers 15:39

Numbers 15:39, Memory Verse Song (tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")
Remember the commands of the Lord. (Shout, "And obey!")
Remember the commands of the Lord. ("And obey!")
Remember the commands, remember the commands,
Remember the commands of the Lord. ("And obey!")

Joshua and Caleb (tune: "Ring Around the Rosie")
Joshua and Caleb, Joshua and Caleb, (Walk in a circle holding hands.)
Canaan, Canaan, we'll all go in! (One giant step into circle.)

Joshua and Caleb, Joshua and Caleb, (Walk in a circle holding hands.)
Giants! Giants! We'll all go out! (One giant step back.)

Joshua and Caleb, Joshua and Caleb, (Walk in a circle holding hands.)
Faithful, Faithful, God is faithful! (Stop and raise joined hands.)

Joshua and Caleb, Joshua and Caleb, (Walk in a circle holding hands.)
Sadness, sadness, we bow our heads. (Stand with heads bowed.)

Joshua and Caleb, Joshua and Caleb, (Walk in a circle holding hands.)
Forty, forty, forty more years! (Let go of hands and fall to the floor.)

We Will Not Forget God's Word

We will not forget God's Word. (To the rhythm of the song, pound one fist into the other open hand.)
That is where His voice is heard. (Point your index finger into the other open palm.)
If we listen and obey, (Cup your hand around your ear.)
We'll be happy every day. (Clap and smile.)

We will not complain and groan, (Make mad and sad faces.)
Cry and fuss and sit alone. (Fold arms as though pouting.)
If we have a thankful smile, (Smile.)
We'll be happy all the while. (Clap and smile.)

We Worship God (tune: "God Is So Good")

We worship God, we worship God,
We worship God, God is Ho-o-ly.

We worship God, we worship God,
We worship God, God is fai-aithful.

Wand'ring in the Wilderness (tune: "Waltzing Matilda")

Wand'ring in the wilderness, wand'ring in the wilderness,
Wand'ring in the wilderness because they doubted God.
They were grumbling, complaining, and outright disobeying,
Not yet going to the Promised Land.

Praise Him! Praise Him! (tune: "Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children")

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little Israelites.
God is faithful. God is faithful. (God forgives, God punishes sin.)
Praise Him, praise Him all ye little Israelites. God is faithful to His kids.



Took:

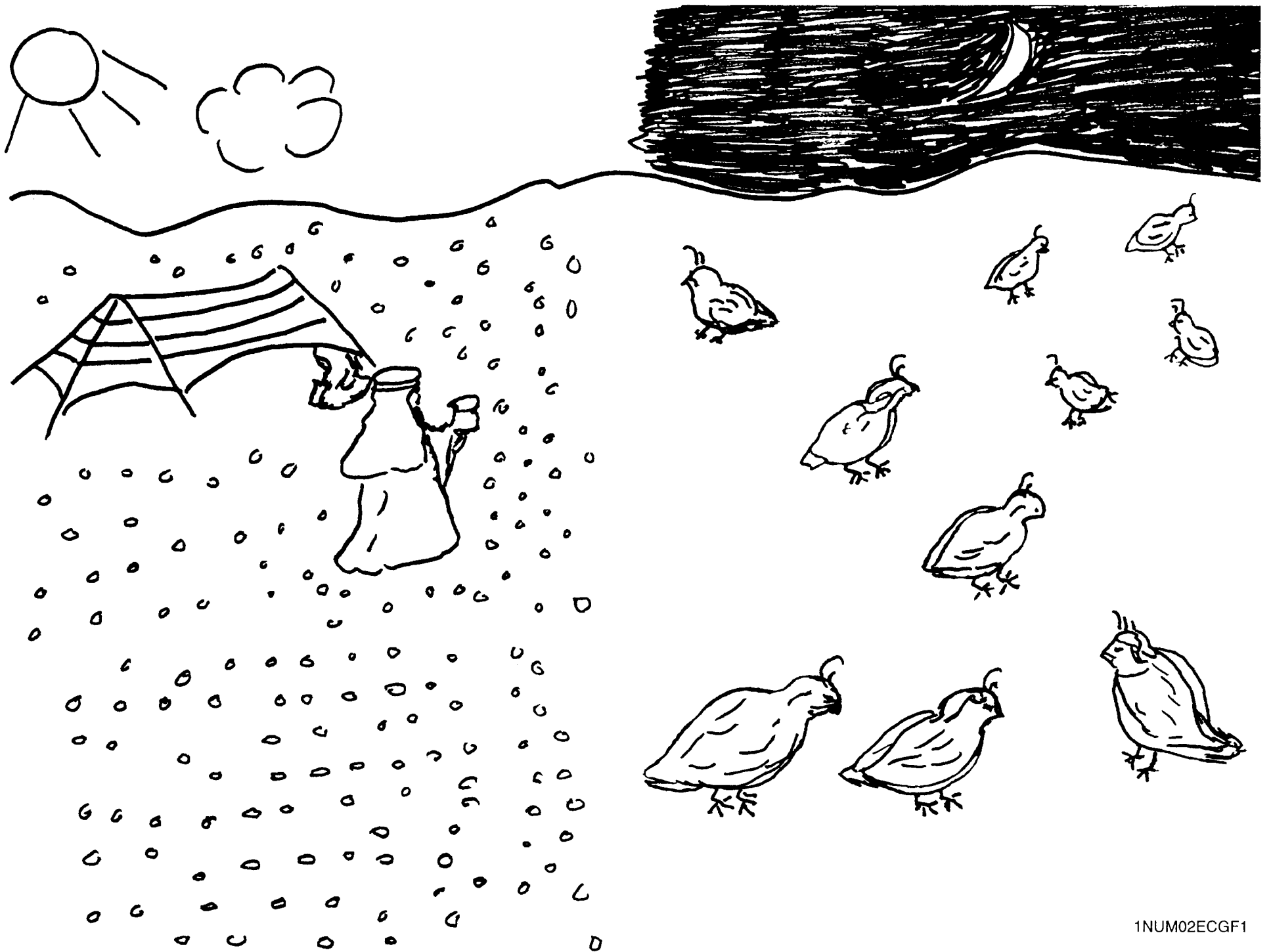
Fist Puppet Reminder: (1NUM02ECGF4) Draw on hand with washable markers as a reminder to smile and not grumble and forget God.

Quail Reminder: (1NUM02ECGF4) Give each child half of a paper plate, a three-inch square of yellow construction paper, a craft stick and a fifteen-inch piece of black yarn. Use markers to draw eyes. Cut yarn into short pieces and glue on as feathers. Fold the yellow square in half and glue on for a beak. Glue the craft stick to the back along with a copy of the verse. Remember that God gives, forgives, and punishes when necessary.

④ **Quail Stamps:** Cut a quail stamp out of a potato or a piece of Dr. Scholl's foot pad (glued to a piece of wood). Let children stamp all the quail they want on a piece of construction paper. Talk about God's provisions for His people and yet how they grumbled and weren't thankful. Add sad face stickers or stamps.

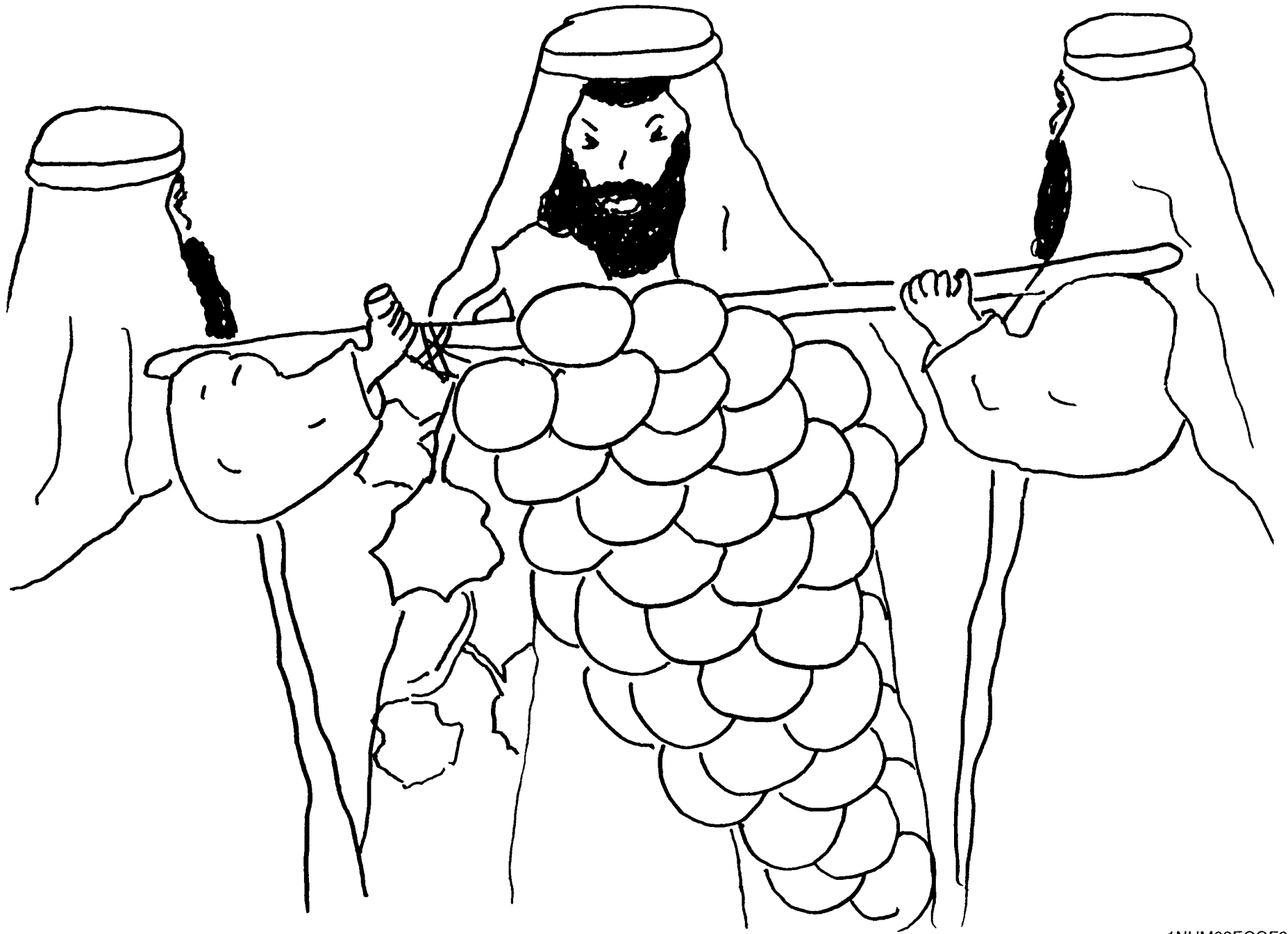
④ **Ribbon on Finger:** The Israelites easily forgot all God did for them. We don't want to forget God or His Word. Tie a piece of colorful blue ribbon around one of their fingers to help the children remember God and obey. The Israelites were supposed to wear blue tassels to remember to obey all God's commands. Review the memory verse as you tie the ribbons on the children's fingers.

- ④ **Folded Paper Birds: (1NUM02ECGF4)** Fold a piece of gray construction paper as shown. Talk about the quail that God provided. Use this to remember that God provides and we shouldn't complain or forget. Make these ahead of time if children are younger.



1NUM02ECGF1

God sent manna every morning and quail every evening for the Israelites to eat.



1NUM02ECGF2

The twelve explorers brought back grapes from the land of Canaan.

Joshua and Caleb trusted in God's power to take them to the land of Canaan.

