



Israel Rejects God's Provision

Numbers 11–12



LESSON GOAL

Students will see God's judgment and mercy in His response to Israel's sin.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to

- Explain the wrong attitude of the Israelites.
- Describe God's response to complaining Israel.
- Tell how Moses responded to the people's cry for help.
- Give the Lord's response to Moses' prayer.

KEY VERSE

"Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused" (Numbers 11:1a).

APPLICATION

- Remember that complaining displeases the Lord.
- Be careful to thank God for His blessings in your life.
- Be an example to the people around you by your thankful and obedient heart.
- Obey your parents because God has made them leaders over you.

NEXT WEEK

Israel Rejects God's Plan
Read Numbers 13–14.

Symbol Key



Craft



Memory Verse



Object Lesson



Game



Visual Aid



Activity



Q & A



Work Sheet



2 Grade Level

Teacher Planning Sheet

PREPARE

Objectives/Truths to cover this week

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Personal Application

As a result of my study in this passage, God wants me to

- _____
- _____
- _____

Three ways students need to apply this passage are

- _____
- _____
- _____

Materials Needed

POINT

Choose from various ideas to point students to the coming Bible lesson.

- _____
- _____

PROCLAIM

Choose from various ideas to proclaim the Bible lesson.

Presentation Ideas

- _____
- _____

Praise/Music Ideas

- _____
- _____
- _____

PRACTICE

Choose ideas to help review and apply today's lesson.

- _____
- _____

PREPARE WITH THE TRUTH

"Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul... You shall teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 11:18–19).

Please take time to prepare your mind and heart to accurately handle the truths of God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15). Read through the Bible background and study the truths contained in this lesson. Crucial background information is included here to aid you in understanding the Scripture.

Bible Background

The beginning of Numbers looks forward to God's leading Israel into the Promised Land. Very little time elapsed between the end of Exodus and the first chapters of Numbers. The tabernacle was raised on the first day of the first month, one year after the exodus (Ex. 40:17). Around this time, the priests were consecrated (Lev. 8) and the Levites were counted, cleansed, and dedicated for tabernacle service (Num. 3:5–51; 8:5–26). Upon the tabernacle's consecration, the leaders of each of the 12 tribes (Manasseh replacing the tribe of Levi) brought a dedication offering to the tabernacle (Num. 7). The people began to worship God at the tabernacle.

Two weeks after the raising of the tabernacle, Israel continued to remember the faithfulness of God as they celebrated the first anniversary of the Passover (Num. 9). What a blessed time of thinking about God's past goodness! Two weeks later, on the first day of the second month of the second year, God commanded Israel to count the men who were over 20 years old and able to fight (Num. 1:1–3). There were 603,550 soldiers in Israel. God had kept His promise to Abraham concerning the number of the Israelites; the total population could easily have been over two million! Preparations for entering the Promised Land were under way.

Nineteen days after the census, on the twentieth day of the second month, Israel departed from Sinai, where they had been camped for over a year. Numbers says that they followed the pillar of cloud and fire (Num. 9:15–23) and that God had instructed that silver trumpets be used to give directions to the people concerning their departure (10:1–10). In Numbers 10:11, the Israelites set out for the Wilderness of Paran (southwest of Canaan), from where God would send the 12 spies into Canaan. God's evaluation of Israel was promising; they had obeyed Him and had done just as He had commanded (Num. 1:54; 2:34; 3:51; 4:49).

In an insightful conversation, Moses asked Hobab the Midianite, probably his brother-in-law, if he would accompany Israel into the Promised Land, "the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you'" (Num. 10:29). Moses promised, "Come with us, and we will treat you well; for the LORD has promised good things to Israel." The short conversation shows Moses' expectation for the future. Moses knew that God was faithful and expected God to bless Israel as they entered the Promised Land.

After Israel had been camped near Sinai for more than one year, the pillar of cloud lifted, and the tribes of Israel departed for Canaan. Before each day of travel, the ark of the covenant would precede the people into the desert. Every day, Moses would say, "Rise up, O LORD! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You" (Num. 10:35). Moses' anticipation of victory is evident. Sadly, the people were not united with Moses in his dependence on God's faithfulness.

Numbers 11:1–3—Israel's Complaint

Not many details are given concerning Israel's first rebellion after leaving Sinai.

Additional Reference Materials

The MacArthur Study Bible by John MacArthur

Only three days into their journey (Num. 10:33), Israel complained against God. When God heard their complaint, He became angry and sent fire among the people. God dealt with the rebellion against His authority with righteous severity. The “fire of the LORD” consumed some of the Israelites (Num. 11:1). Struck by fear, the people cried out to Moses. When Moses interceded on behalf of the people, the Lord answered Moses’ prayer, and “the fire was quenched.” God held back the wrath that the people deserved.

While Moses does not give many details concerning this first complaint, the brevity of the narrative is powerful in its own way. Israel had not changed. After more than a year of God’s provision and the manifestation of His glory, Israel was no different from when they were on their first journey into the wilderness. Three days after crossing the Red Sea, Israel had complained against God (Ex. 15:22–25). Now, three days after leaving Sinai, they again were assuming that they knew better than God what was best for them.

Numbers 11:4–35—Israel’s Rejection of God’s Provision

While the exact content of Israel’s first complaint is unknown, the second complaint is described in more detail. A “mixed multitude,” non-Israelites who had accompanied Israel since Egypt, began to remember and crave the food they had eaten in Egypt (Num. 11:4). The Israelites quickly followed and wept again, saying: “Who will give us meat to eat? We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic” (11:5). While longing for what was eaten in slavery was ridiculous enough, the Israelites’ cry became even more offensive when they assaulted God’s provision. They cried, “Our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!” (11:6). God had miraculously given the people manna each morning. The food had sustained them and kept them healthy for over a year. It could even be made into a number of dishes (11:7–9). But all the people did was complain.

The sight of the “people weeping throughout their families, everyone at the door of his tent” provoked the Lord. It also provoked Moses (Num. 11:10). Moses cried to God in desperation, faltering under the burden of leading the wicked people (11:11–15). God promised to help Moses by pouring out His Spirit on 70 of the elders of Israel (11:16–17). The prophesying of the elders marked an outpouring of the Spirit (11:24–30). God answered Moses’ desperate plea for relief in leading the people by gifting certain elders for leadership. God’s answer to the people’s rebellious complaint would be much different, though.

The Lord told Moses that He would give the people meat for a whole month (Num. 11:19). Although God would give them meat (11:18), it would not be satisfying to them. Instead, the meat would be the vehicle for their punishment. Moses told the people, “You shall eat...until it comes out of your nostrils and becomes loathsome to you, because you have despised the LORD who is among you” (11:19–20). Moses wondered how God would give over two million people meat for a whole month (11:21–22).

The Lord sent a strong wind that spread quail around the camp as far as a day’s journey in every direction (Num. 11:31). The birds flew about three feet above the ground. The people spent two days and a night gathering quail; each person gathered at least 10 homers (perhaps 60 to 70 bushels; 11:32)! But as soon as the people began to eat the meat, the “wrath of the LORD was aroused against the people, and the LORD struck the people with a very great plague” (11:33). Those who ate the meat died (11:34).

For the second time since leaving Sinai, the people had rebelled against God’s provision. They exalted themselves in pride and believed that they deserved better

than what God was giving them. In rebelling against God's provision, the Israelites had rebelled against God Himself. God poignantly humbled the people by giving them exactly what they had asked for.

Numbers 12—Miriam and Aaron's Rejection of God's Provision

Sadly, the rebellious unfaithfulness of Israel was not limited to the people. Miriam and Aaron showed the same attitude in their rejection of God's provision of Moses' leadership. Supposedly, their attack against Moses was because of his marriage to an Ethiopian woman (Num. 12:1; commentators disagree about whether this woman was Zipporah). But the real reason for their disappointment comes out in Numbers 12:2: "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" Miriam and Aaron were jealous that God had given leadership to Moses. Like the rest of the Israelites, they believed that they knew a better way than what God had revealed.

The Lord brought Moses, Aaron, and Miriam together in front of the tabernacle. From the pillar of cloud, the Lord rebuked Aaron and Miriam (Num. 12:4–8). While God did have other prophets to whom he spoke through dreams and visions, God spoke to Moses "face to face, even plainly, and not in dark sayings" (12:8). Moses had a special knowledge of God, but he was not puffed up by this knowledge. Instead, the text says that Moses was "very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth" (12:3).

When the Lord departed from the three, Miriam had been stricken with some type of serious skin disease (Num. 12:10). Aaron, whom God probably had spared because of his function as high priest, apologized to Moses and begged Moses to intercede for Miriam, who was "as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb" (12:12). Moses, who showed amazing humility and forgiveness, quickly asked God to heal Miriam. God did, but only after Miriam was shamed by being shut out of the camp for seven days, the period that had to pass before someone could be declared clean of a skin disease. God wanted Miriam, and the other Israelites, to remember the seriousness of rebelling against God's leader. Only after the seven days did the Israelites continue on their journey.

Conclusion

Numbers 11–12 exposes the heart condition of Israel. Despite God's incredible faithfulness, His daily provision of food, and His gifting of the humble Moses, the Israelites, from the least to the greatest, were unfaithful toward God. They succumbed to their pride and claimed that God's goodness was failure and that His faithfulness was unfaithfulness. Actually, it was Israel who showed that they were unfaithful to God, rejecting His provision of both food and leadership.

POINT TO THE TRUTH

"Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth"
(Psalm 78:1).

This section includes questions to review last week's lesson and ideas to prepare students for this week's lesson. Choose from the following ideas to point to the truths of this lesson.



Obedience Leads to Blessing

(This activity is designed to teach the students that God's plan for us is the best, but we are responsible to obey His instructions carefully.)

Before class, prepare a volunteer leader. Explain to him that he will be instructed through an obstacle course. He is to go his own way in the beginning and not follow the directions. While going his own way, he will get lost and injured. He will then follow the instructions carefully and will arrive safely. Practice instructing the volunteer as he walks through the obstacle course. Then send him out of the room.

Once the students arrive, explain that you will be playing a game. Explain that God gave the children of Israel a wonderful gift. The Promised Land was full of good things and produced good food. All the children of Israel had to do was obey. If they followed God's commands and obeyed Him, they would be able to enjoy His blessings. But instead, they did what they wanted. They complained about the food that God provided. They complained about not having water to drink. They wanted to be their own leaders.

Begin by asking the prepared volunteer leader to leave the room. Place good foods on a table, and stagger chairs in a path between the table and the volunteer leader. Blindfold the volunteer leader and bring him back into the room. Instruct one of the students to give him oral directions on how to get to the table with the food. The leader will go his own way a few times, ignoring the instructions. He will pretend to get lost and hurt. Finally, the leader should begin to follow the instructions exactly and get to the table to enjoy some of the food.

Explain that the volunteer could have followed the instructions and gotten there faster and without getting hurt, but he chose to go his own way. When he was obedient and followed the instructions exactly, he arrived at the treats.



God's Promise Is Close

Remind students about the special promise God made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1–3. Use pictures from the A Beka Book Flash-A-Card series on Abraham and Jacob to review the promise God made to them. God had given them a great nation and a law to run the country, and now He was about to give them their own land. This should have been a very exciting time, but it was not exciting for Israel. The moment their lives became just a little difficult, they complained and failed to trust God.



Complaining Puppet Role-Play

Use a puppet to show complaining attitudes. Have the puppet complain about cleaning his room, being kind to his sister, sharing with a friend, or about the food that he has received. What is wrong with having a complaining attitude? In today's lesson, the students will see what happened when Israel complained about their food and their leader.

Quotation Prediction

Write this quotation from Numbers 11:23 on the board for students to see when they enter the classroom: "The LORD said to Moses 'Has the LORD's arm been shortened?'" Begin the lesson by asking students to predict what the Israelites might be complaining about that resulted in the Lord asking this question. List predictions on the board to see whether any students guessed something close to the actual complaint.

PROCLAIM THE TRUTH

"Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4).

This section includes the Bible lesson, lesson questions, and praise and worship ideas. Song suggestions are included that you can use to proclaim your worship to God. Use the lesson questions to check the students' understanding. This section also includes various presentation ideas to use during the teaching time. Read the Bible passage several times before you read these pages. All teaching should be done directly from the Bible.

Bible Lesson

Reading of the Text

Read portions of Numbers 11–12.

Introduction

Do you ever complain? Do you ever grumble? Give an example of a person who grumbles and complains. Have you ever been unthankful? Have you ever wanted things your way, and when they were done another way, you did nothing but complain? Have you ever wished you had more toys, another bike, or better clothes? Have you ever thought, "So-and-so has everything, and I have nothing"? Before we get into our lesson, let us check on what God has given us. How many shirts do you have? How many pants, dresses, pairs of socks, pairs of shoes, toys, books, and Bibles do you have? Today, we will learn about how God responded to the Israelites when they complained and how this truth can help change our lives.

Leadoff Questions (LOQs)

LOQ: What did the Israelites do in Numbers 11:1?

Answer: They complained about their hardships.

LOQ: Did the Israelites have any reason to complain?

Answer: No. God had given them water and food (manna from heaven). He also had given them guidance and protection. He had given them everything they needed. They had no reason to complain.

LOQ: How were the Israelites rejecting God's provision?

Answer: The people of Israel were not satisfied with what God had given them, and they wanted more. They were tired of the manna and wanted meat. They



rejected God's provision by not being grateful for what He had given them. They had unthankful attitudes.

LOQ: What did God do when He heard the Israelites' complaints?

Answer: When God heard the Israelites' complaints, His anger was kindled, and He sent fire to consume some of those living near the edges of the camp.

LOQ: How did the Israelites respond to God's judgment?

Answer: They cried out to Moses. Moses was between the people and God. Moses represented God to the people, and he represented the people to God. God allowed Moses to come into His presence and talk with Him (Num. 11:11, 25). They knew that God would hear Moses' prayers. God accepted Moses into His presence. The people needed someone to go to God for them because God did not allow the sinful people into His presence.

LOQ: Why did Moses pray to the Lord?

Answer: Moses knew that God would hear and answer his prayers.

LOQ: How did God respond to Moses' prayer for mercy?

Answer: He stopped the judgment. God is merciful!

LOQ: What did God give the people because of their complaining about not having meat?

Answer: God gave Israel quail to eat. There were quail for a day's journey in each direction, and they flew three feet from the ground.

LOQ: What did the people do with the quail?

Answer: They gathered the quail for two days.

LOQ: What did Aaron and Miriam do in Numbers 12:1?

Answer: They spoke out against Moses. They were not trusting God's decision for Moses' leadership. They thought they knew what was best for God's people.

LOQ: How did God describe Moses?

Answer: God described Moses as a faithful and loyal servant. Moses was also humbler than anyone else on the earth.

LOQ: How did God punish Miriam for her sin?

Answer: God punished Miriam with a terrible skin disease called leprosy.

LOQ: What did Moses do when he saw that Miriam had been afflicted with the disease?

Answer: He prayed to God on her behalf. He had mercy on Miriam and wanted God to heal her.

LOQ: What was God's answer to Moses' prayer?

Answer: God would heal Miriam, but first she would have to be sent outside the camp for seven days.

Summary

God provided the children of Israel with everything they needed. He brought them out of Egypt and promised to give them a land flowing with milk and honey. God had provided for all their needs, and still they failed to trust Him. Each morning, God would provide food for Israel. They complained about God's provision and said they wanted what they had in Egypt. Their complaints displeased God, and He killed some of the people on the outskirts of the camp with fire. Because of their complaints, God gave the nation meat in the form of quail. There was more quail than they could eat. They hoarded the meat, not trusting God's provision, and many fell dead with the meat still in their teeth.

Aaron and Miriam also lacked faith in God's provision. They questioned God's appointing Moses as leader. God judged them both for their rejection of His provision by striking Miriam with leprosy. Aaron begged that God would be merciful to them for their sin. God had mercy, and Miriam was sent out of the camp for seven days until she was cleansed. After Miriam's cleansing, the people of Israel moved on.

Application

Do you ever complain? Do you ever grumble about your circumstances? When we grumble and complain, whom do we act like? (The people of Israel.) A person who complains all the time is one who rejects God's provision and thinks he deserves something better than what God has given. The people of Israel complained against God, and He judged them by killing some of them with fire. To complain and grumble is sin. Boys and girls, your sin separates you from God. Because you are a sinner, you need a Savior. The Israelites cried out for mercy, and you can do the same. You deserve the punishment of God because of your sin, but God offers forgiveness and mercy through Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ took your sin as His own; He took your punishment for you. He was punished in your place as though He had sinned against God, but He did no sin. He was punished as though He lived a life of sin so that those who believe in Him will be seen as sinless by God. In the same way that Moses interceded for the people, Jesus interceded for us when He died on the cross. He died in your place. You must repent of your sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Savior. Just as God had mercy on the people by not killing them with fire, He will have mercy on you if you cry out to Him to be saved.

Presentation Ideas



A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards

Use appropriate A Beka Book Flash-A-Cards with the lesson.



Betty Lukens Flannelgraph

Use appropriate flannelgraph pieces with the lesson.



Crowd Participation

Make two signs for the Bible lesson. One should read "boo," and one should read "yay." As you read the story from Numbers, hold up the appropriate sign of approval or disapproval of Israel's actions and attitudes. When Israel does something sinful, hold up the "boo" sign. When the students see it, they should calmly but seriously say "boo." When God does something merciful or the people obey,



hold up the “yay” sign. The students should quietly but happily say “yay.” Before you read the Bible lesson to the students, have them practice saying “yay” and “boo” the right way. Make sure you keep the activity very controlled.

The Root of Sin

Materials: one healthy plant and one dead plant (or pictures of plants), small tags, bobby pins

Directions: Before class, prepare the plants by labeling the roots. Write “Pride” on a tag, and use a bobby pin to affix it to the roots of the dead plant. Repeat the process with the healthy plant, but write “God” on the tag. When you start your lesson, ask the students what the differences are between the two plants (good/bad, alive/dead, beautiful/ugly, healthy/sick, etc.) Ask the students what they think caused the differences; lift up the root of the healthy plant and talk about how God is the root of all goodness, beauty, health, and life. Then lift up the root of the dead plant and discuss the fact that pride is the root of many sins. Explain that in today’s lesson, the students will learn about how the nation of Israel pridefully sinned by trusting in their own will instead of God’s will.



“Complain” Acrostic

Write the acrostic “COMPLAIN” vertically on the board. Add the appropriate phrases next to each letter after completing the corresponding section of the lesson. (Note: The phrases are not in the exact order of the text. The letter I is a summary of the lesson, and the letter N is used to list the passage of Scripture to help students recall where this lesson was taught in the Bible.) Encourage students to use this acrostic to remember the sinful complaints of Israel as demonstrated in Numbers 11–12.

Craved food they had in Egypt (Num.11:4–6)

Offended God and displeased Moses (Num. 11:10–15)

Manna was not enough for them (Num. 11:7–9)

People were weeping at the door of their tents (Num. 11:10)

Leadership of Moses was rejected by Aaron and Miriam (Num. 12)

Aroused the Lord’s anger, which resulted in punishment (Num. 11:1–3)

Israel rejected God’s provision!

Numbers 11–12

Praise and Worship

Give Thanks

God Is So Good

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

O-B-E-D-I-E-N-C-E

This Is the Day

This Little Light of Mine

Trust and Obey

PRACTICE THE TRUTH

"That they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:7).

Choose ideas from this section to review and apply the truths of the Bible lesson.



Complaining

In today's lesson, we learned about the Israelites' complaining attitudes. Ask the students the following questions so they can learn what complaining is and how to stop it: Who complains? What is complaining? When do we complain? How do we complain? Why is it wrong to complain? What should we do instead of complaining?



Keys of a Thankful Heart

Materials: loose-leaf rings, copies of the "Keys to a Thankful Heart" craft page (at back of lesson), crayons, pencils, hole punch, clear tape

Directions: Use this craft to help the students develop thankful attitudes. One key is to find specific examples of God's goodness in the past. A second key is to see God's goodness now. The third is to trust God's goodness in the future. We do this by trusting His promises. Have the students cut out one copy of each key. Have them color the keys different colors. Punch holes in each of the keys. (Hint: Before punching the holes in the keys, reinforce the area with clear tape.) On the back of the "God's Goodness in the Past" key, have them write three good things God has given to or done for them. On the back of the "God's Goodness Now" key, have them write three ways in which they can see God's goodness now. On the back of the "God's Goodness in the Future" key, have them write down a verse reference that shows God will be good in the future. Once the students are finished coloring and writing, have them put the keys on the loose-leaf ring.



Follow the Leader

Play the game by choosing a student or a teacher to be leader. As you play the game (or after you play), talk about issues in the game that compare with the Israelites' response to God's chosen leaders for them. Did anyone have the desire to be the leader? Did anyone try to take over? Did anyone get out of line or refuse to follow the leader who was chosen? Also discuss how God has chosen leaders for us, including our parents, teachers, pastors, and government officials.



Complaining Coupon

In today's lesson, the children of Israel complained against God's provision of food. Although God had given them everything they needed, they wanted more. God also has blessed us with everything we need in life. Even with all these blessings, we sometimes sin and complain. Give each student a complaining coupon from the back of the lesson. Tell him to take the coupon home and give it to his parents. Parents can give their child the coupon whenever they hear him complain. Once the student is given the coupon, he must follow the instructions before he can hand it back.



"Israel Rejects God's Provision"

Use this work sheet to reinforce the key truths of today's lesson. The work sheet is located at the back of the lesson.



Journal Page: "Complaint or Content"

Give each student a copy of the journal page at the back of this lesson. The students can complete the page individually, in small groups, or at home.



Small-Group Game: Quail Quiz

Materials: photocopy of quail picture on cardstock for each student, large bag of colored craft feathers, tape dispenser for each group

Directions: Divide the class into groups of 5–7 students. Pass out a quail picture to each student. Direct the group leaders to ask review questions to each student in the group one at a time. Each time a student answers a question about the lesson correctly, he may tape a feather to the quail picture. The student with the most feathers on his quail at the end of the quiz wins!

Coloring Sheets

Give each student a copy of the coloring sheet at the back of this lesson. The students can color the pages in class or take them home to color.

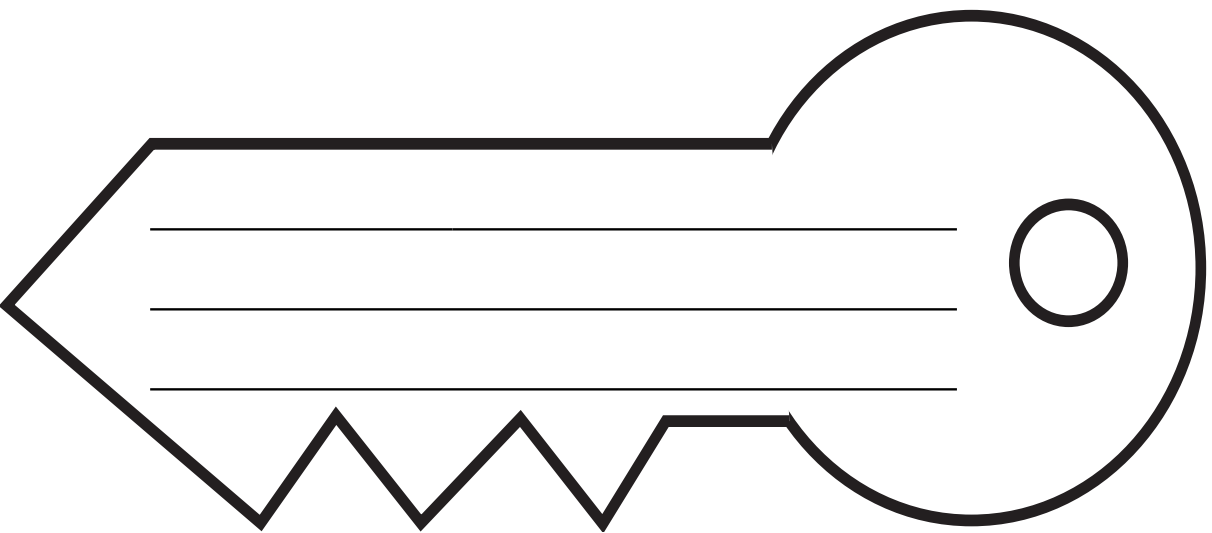
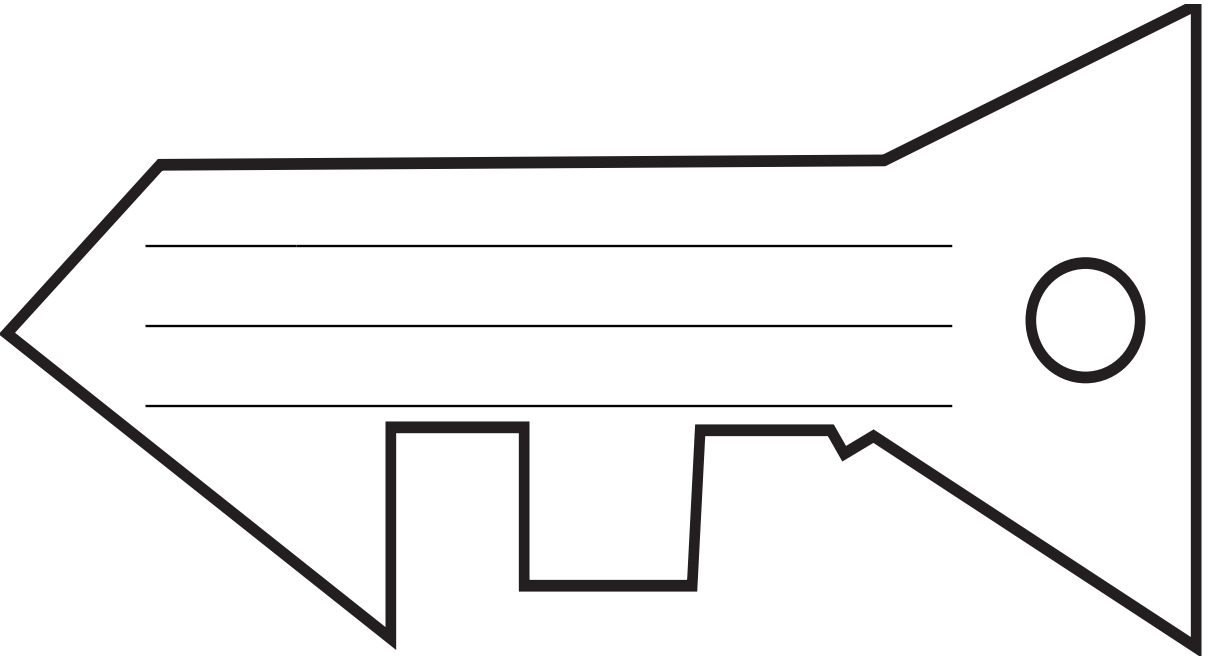
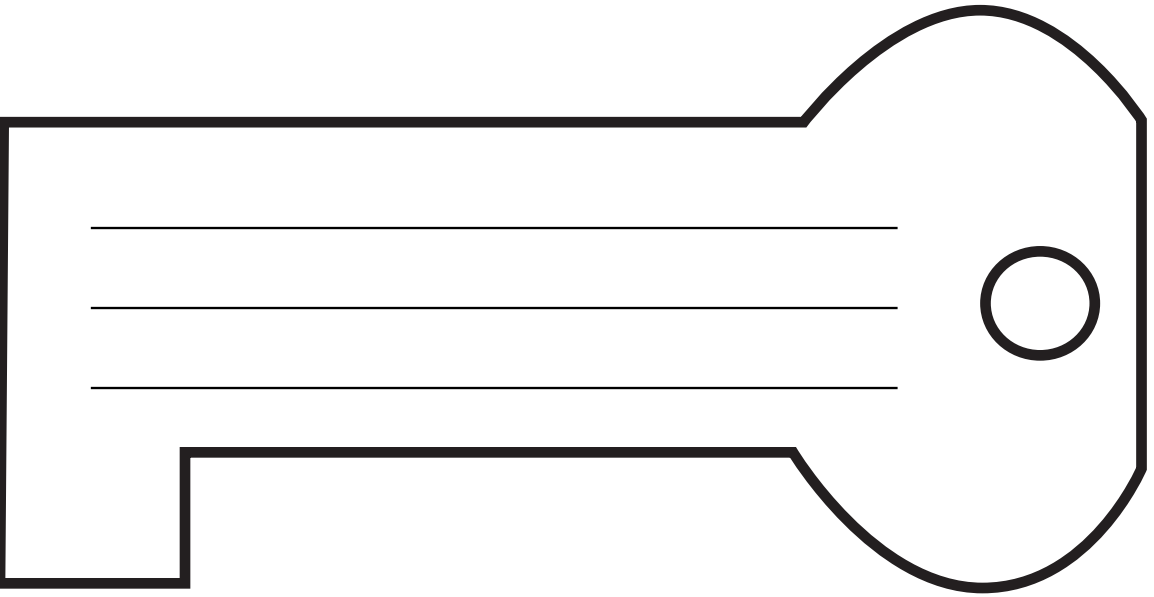


MEMORY VERSE

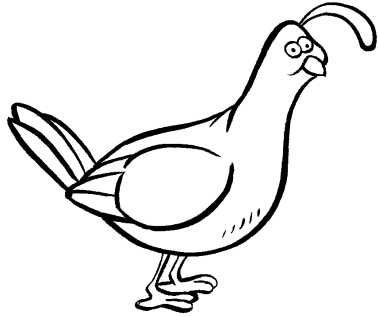
"Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD; for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused" (Numbers 11:1a).

Keys to a Thankful Heart





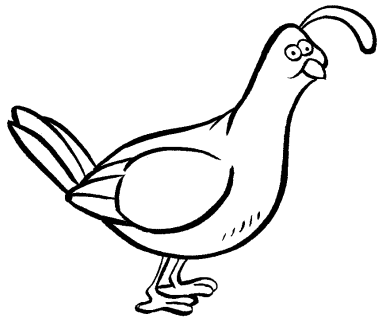
Complaining Coupon



Complaining Coupon

This coupon is hereby given to a complaining person by the hearer of any such complaining. In order to get rid of this coupon, the complainer must complete the following checklist:

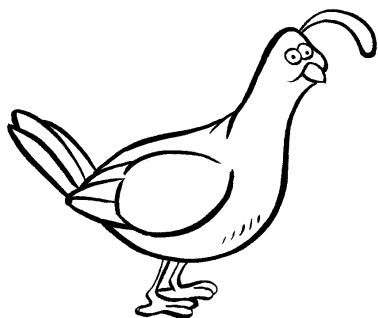
1. Stop complaining!
2. Pray. Ask God to forgive you for being ungrateful. Ask Him for wisdom to do the right thing.
3. Name one thing for which you are grateful.
4. Complete your task without complaining.



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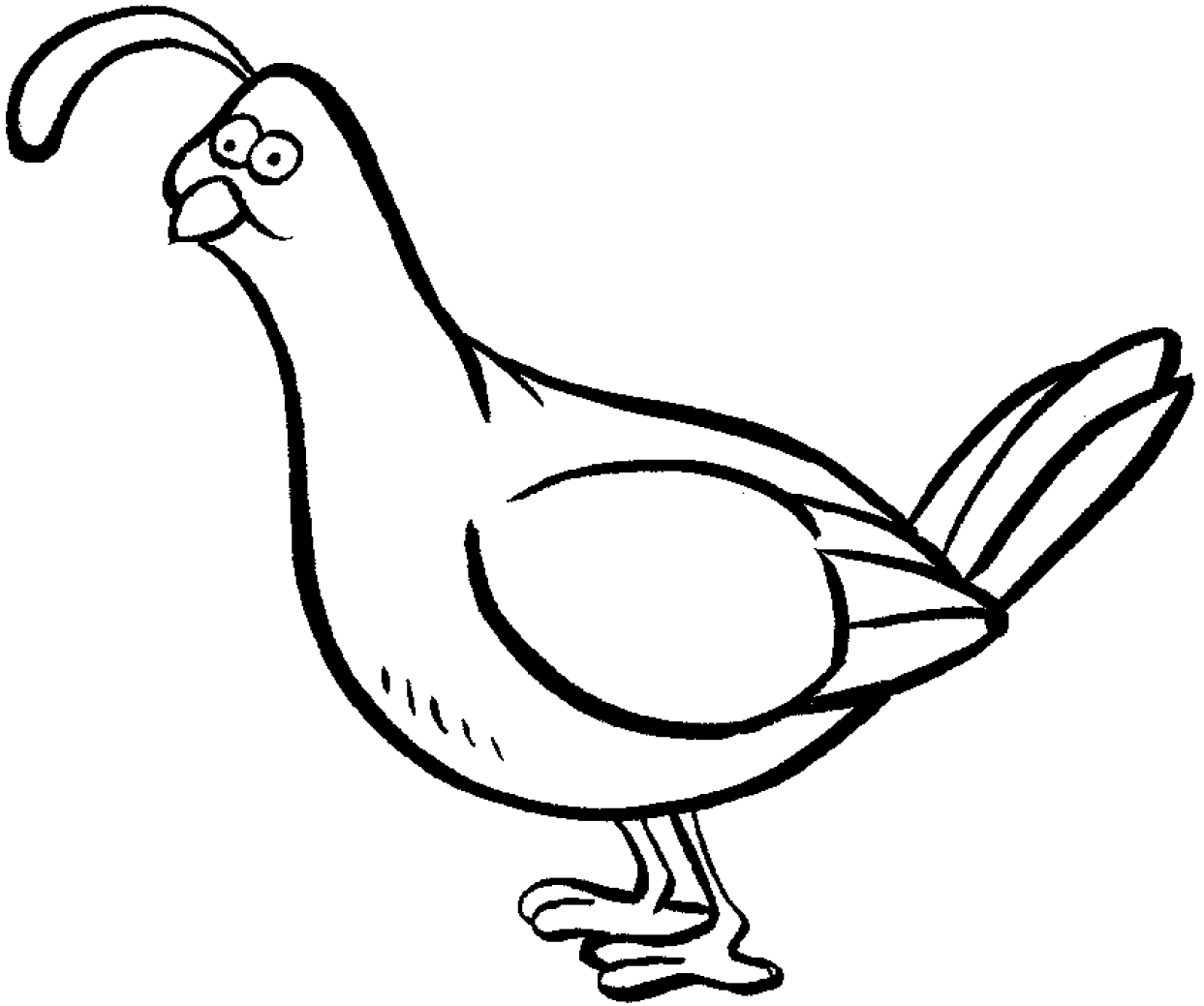


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Quail Quiz



Israel *Rejects* God's *Provision*



Numbers 11-12

Name _____

1. God provided Israel _____ to eat on their journey through the wilderness.
2. Were the Israelites satisfied with the manna? _____
3. God sent _____ to kill some of the Israelites who complained (Num. 11:1).
hail snakes fire
4. In Numbers 11:20, God told the Israelites that He would send so much quail it would come out their _____.
5. Was it right for Miriam and Aaron to be jealous of Moses' leadership? _____
6. God described Moses as _____ (Num. 12:7).
7. When God afflicted Miriam with leprosy, Moses _____ to God on Miriam's behalf (Num. 12:13).
8. How should we respond to what the Lord has given us? _____

Complaint or Content

“Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD, for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused” (Num. 11:1a).

Have you ever noticed how water dripping on a paper towel spreads out to the edges? Complaining is like that; it spreads and multiplies quickly. Just as the complaining of the mixed multitude in today’s lesson spread to the Israelites, through the whole camp, and even to Aaron and Miriam, so any complaining by God’s people can spread and will bring the Lord’s displeasure. God does not want His children to complain; He wants them to be content with His good gifts. Choose from God’s blessings listed below, and place each one in the correct verse: MOSES, CLOUD, ARK OF THE COVENANT, MANNA.

The _____ went before Israel (Num. 10:33).

The _____ was above them by day (Num. 10:34).

When the dew fell on the camp in the night, the _____ fell on it (Num. 11:9).

So _____ went out and told the people the word of the Lord (Num. 11:24).

How should the people have responded to God’s good gifts?

Complaint or Content

“Now when the people complained, it displeased the LORD, for the LORD heard it, and His anger was aroused” (Num. 11:1a).

Have you ever noticed how water dripping on a paper towel spreads out to the edges? Complaining is like that; it spreads and multiplies quickly. Just as the complaining of the mixed multitude in today’s lesson spread to the Israelites, through the whole camp, and even to Aaron and Miriam, so any complaining by God’s people can spread and will bring the Lord’s displeasure. God does not want His children to complain; He wants them to be content with His good gifts. Choose from God’s blessings listed below, and place each one in the correct verse: MOSES, CLOUD, ARK OF THE COVENANT, MANNA.

The _____ went before Israel (Num. 10:33).

The _____ was above them by day (Num. 10:34).

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How should the people have responded to God’s good gifts?

First Timothy 6:6 reveals that godliness with contentment is great gain. Do you want great gain? Just ask Christ to change your heart to want what He wants. Then, instead of pursuing more things that money can buy, you will desire to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. (See 1 Tim. 6:6–19.)

Some things money can buy that I have wanted are

Some blessings that God has given me are

I have responded to His blessings by

This week, I will ask the Lord to give me the desire to want what He wants. Some ways I will pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness are

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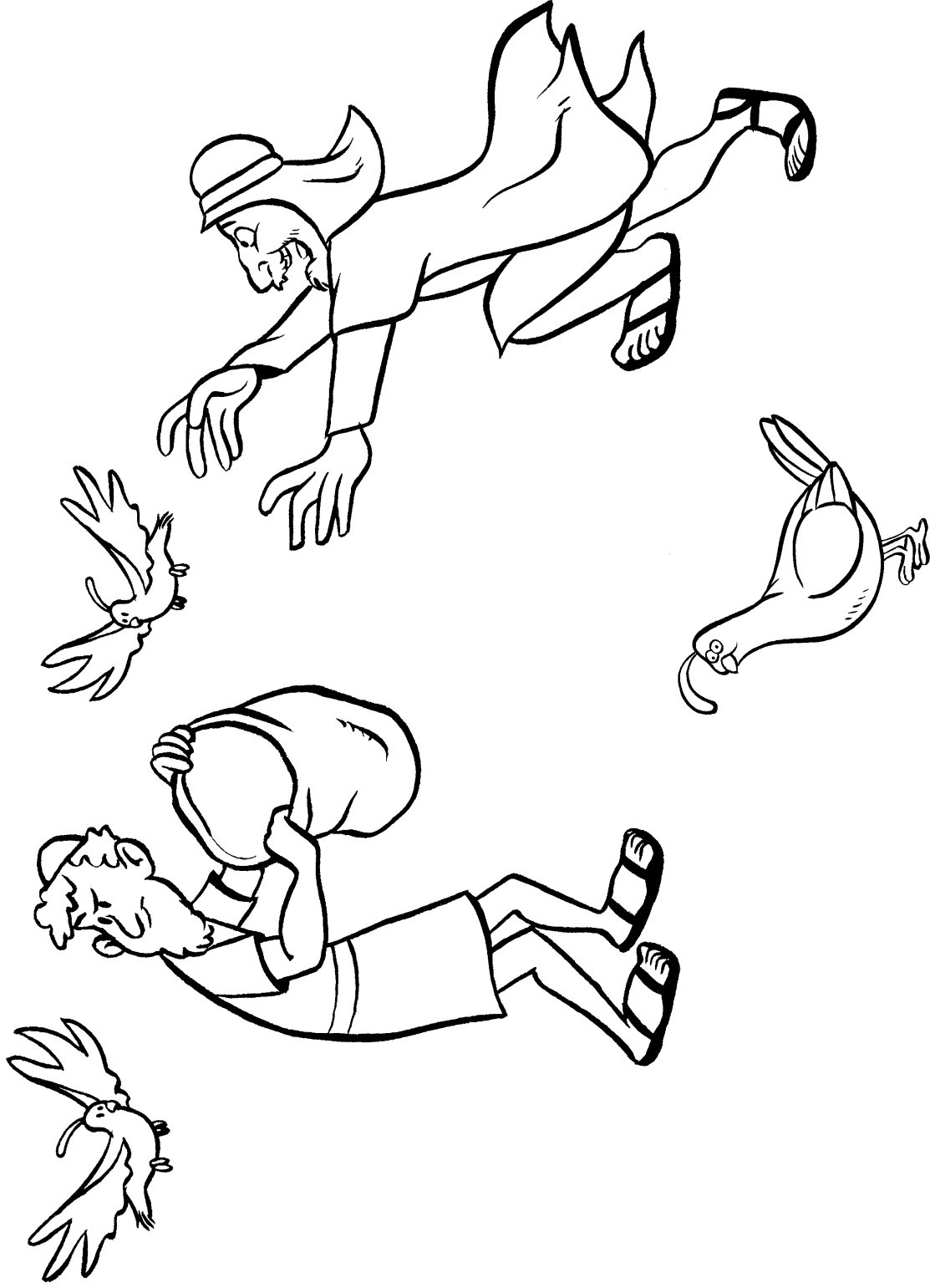
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The Israelites complained about the manna God gave them (Numbers 11:6).



Israel complained and asked God for meat to eat. God provided meat for Israel, and the people stayed up all that day, all night, and all the next day gathering the quail (Numbers 11:31-32).

