

Israelites Grumble Against Moses

Exodus 16:1-16



Bible Point: **Stop your whining, Trust God & Enjoy the ride!**

Lead with this:

The most common phrase on a road trip (after “I need the potty!”) is: “Are we there yet?” How many good times are spoiled by grumbling and complaining? Instead of whining all the time, we need to learn to trust God and enjoy the ride.

Memory Verse: *“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters.” Colossians 3:23 (NirV).*

Read Exodus 16:1-16 & Talk About...

In case you forgot the story... The children of Israel had been slaves in Egypt. They worked for centuries under the cruel hand of the Egyptians. Their children had been murdered by their cruel masters, and the Lord had performed great miracles to set them free. But when they got hungry in the desert, what did the people say? **“We were better off in Egypt, where we were slaves!”** The Israelites were really ungrateful. Even after they were fed with perfect manna from Heaven they still complained! Sometimes though...we sound just as bad. Mom & Dad go to all the trouble to plan fun things for us, and all we do on the way is complain about being hot, hungry, or uncomfortable. We complain in school, we complain at home, and we complain to God. This is not what God wants from his children. God wants us to be people who embrace the journey, who don't mind a little delay. He wants us to trust him, and God has given us plenty of reasons to do so!

Ask This:

What's the craziest thing that's ever happened on a road trip with your family?

What ended up happening? How did the trip end?

Two Things:

1. In our lives: We can trust God and let go of our worries because he loves us enough to meet our needs. From the Bible: When the Israelites complained about the food situation, God didn't just tell them to suck it up until the next exit. He sent them all the food they would need. God isn't going to neglect us any more than he did Israel.

2. In our lives: God won't always answer in the way we expect, but he never fails to give us what we need. From the Bible: God heard the cries of his captive people and sent Moses to set them free.

Remember:

We need to remember these stories of faithfulness. The children of Israel had these stories too, but they seemed to ignore them. Instead of trusting God who had already delivered them from slavery, they cried & complained for a few comforts in Egypt. When we remember these moments, we are reminded of God's goodness. We may not see what God is doing, but the stories of God's faithfulness carry us through until God's perfect plan is revealed. Finally, we need to trust God and not complain so we can enjoy the journey! God doesn't want us to only live for the best of times. We can have joy every day - even in long car rides.

Simple Prayer: **Dear God, Teach us to be grateful at all times and not to grumble. Help us to enjoy the blessings you give us every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.**