

Complaining People

Do you sometimes get a grumpy face and complain when Mommy tells you to eat all of your vegetables every day? You just have to eat those green beans and carrots, don't you? You must obey, because Mommy knows what is good for you. You may grumble because you can't go outside to play or when you need to take a nap. In our story today, it seems the Hebrew people are complaining and grumbling about everything!

As the people followed Moses on the way to their new home, the Promised Land, God watched over them and kept them safe. But, one day all of their food was gone. They had eaten everything! The people didn't have a garden. No apple trees even grew there. Of course, there weren't any grocery stores along the way! What would the people do now? The Hebrew people were hungry, and they complained to Moses. "We will surely starve to death on this long trip," they grumbled.

God knew the Hebrew people would need food. God had a plan to take care of them. They didn't need to grumble, but they did! God told Moses that He would send food from Heaven for the people to eat. God did send a bread called

“manna.” Every day the manna fell from the sky just like rain! The people picked up manna every morning and filled their baskets. They could eat all they wanted all day long! God was taking care of His people by sending them food. At first, the people were thankful for the manna; but, everything they made still tasted the same, just like manna! After awhile they began to grumble and complain again.

“We are tired of eating manna! Why, when we were in Egypt, we had lots of fish and fruits and cucumbers to eat. The food sure was good there. All we ever have now all day long is manna, manna, manna!

The Hebrew people even wished they were back in Egypt just to have different food to eat. It seemed they had forgotten how God had watched over them. God kept them safe from the mean king’s army, and He was leading them to a new home. They were only thinking of what they wanted, and not being thankful for what God had given them.

God was not pleased that His people were complaining, but He still loved them and sent some meat for them to eat. It tasted so good and they ate so much that many of them had tummy aches! But nothing could please the Hebrew

people. They were grumbling with each other about everything. All they did was grumble, grumble, grumble.

Finally, God became tired of the grumbling. All of the people had seen God keep them safe and care for them on their long trip. God had been so good to them, but they were not thankful. God still loved His special people, but He knew they should be punished for all that grumbling, especially when they wouldn't even listen to Him anymore!

God told the Hebrew people that most of them would **not** live in the Promised Land. They wouldn't even be able to **see** the promised land.

Many years would pass and lots of the older people would die before God allowed them to go into the new land He had given to them. That was their punishment for all their grumbling!

God still watched over the Hebrew people and kept them safe through the years. God still loved them, and He never left them or let them go hungry. Our God is so good!

Boys and girls, sometimes you grumble, or maybe don't like to do some things you need to do. Mommy or Daddy has to punish you if you don't listen, just like God had to punish the Hebrews. They still love you, and God will **always** love you, too, but it makes them sad

when you keep complaining. Let's ask God to help us not be grumblers this week.

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At first, the people were thankful for the manna; they probably made manna pancakes, manna burgers, and manna cookies. But, everything they made still tasted the same, just like manna!

After awhile they began to grumble and complain again.

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Memory Verse

“Man does not live on bread alone. But on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”

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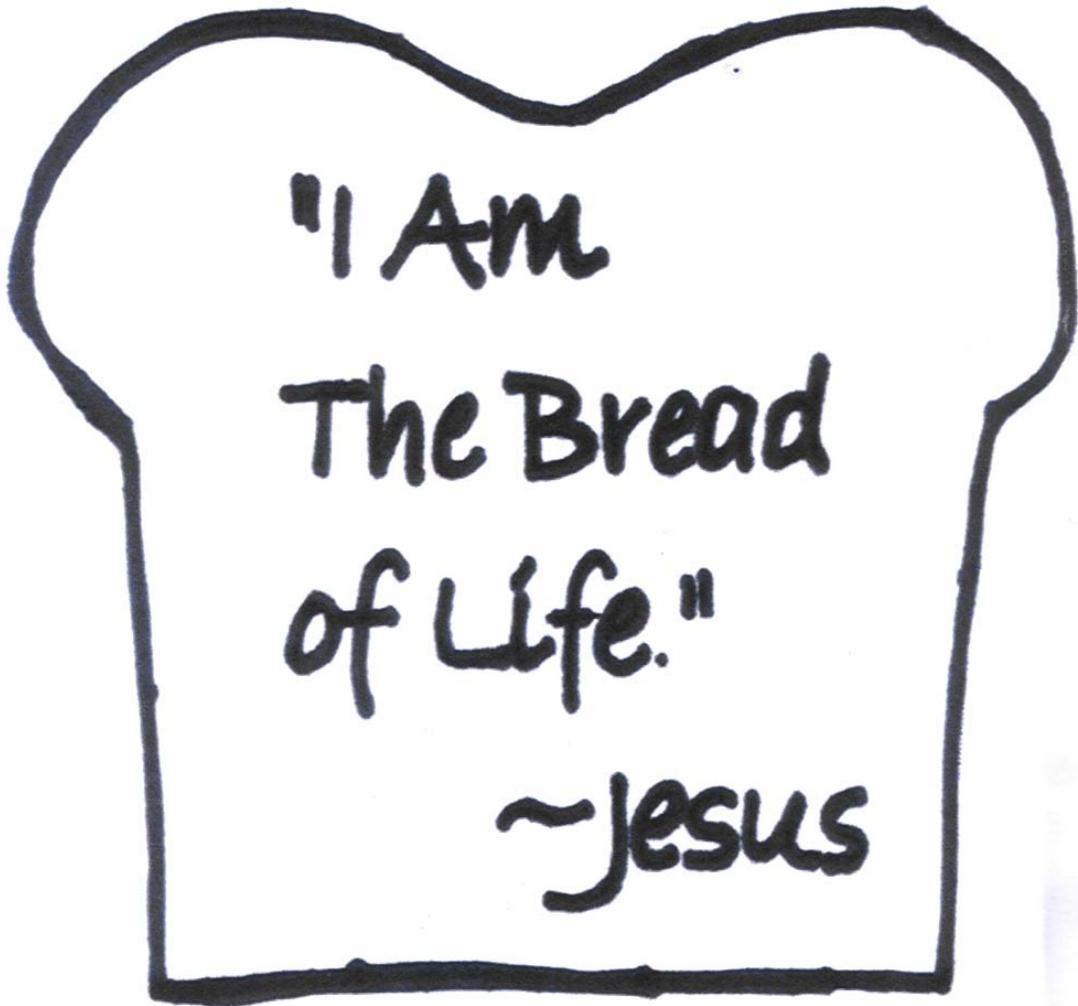
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Matthew 4:4

"I Am
The Bread
of Life."
~Jesus



"I Am

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~Jesus



Complaining People Craft Instructions

Cut small ½” pieces of several different colors of yarn. (red, yellow, white, black, brown) to be used as hair.

Run copies (card stock or stiff paper is best) of both the girl and boy craft sheets. You will need to run a boy picture for the boys and a girl picture for girls.

Collect the following

Lipstick (1 or 2 tubes)

Q-Tips (to apply lipstick with)

Wet ones (to wipe faces with)

Glue

Instructions:

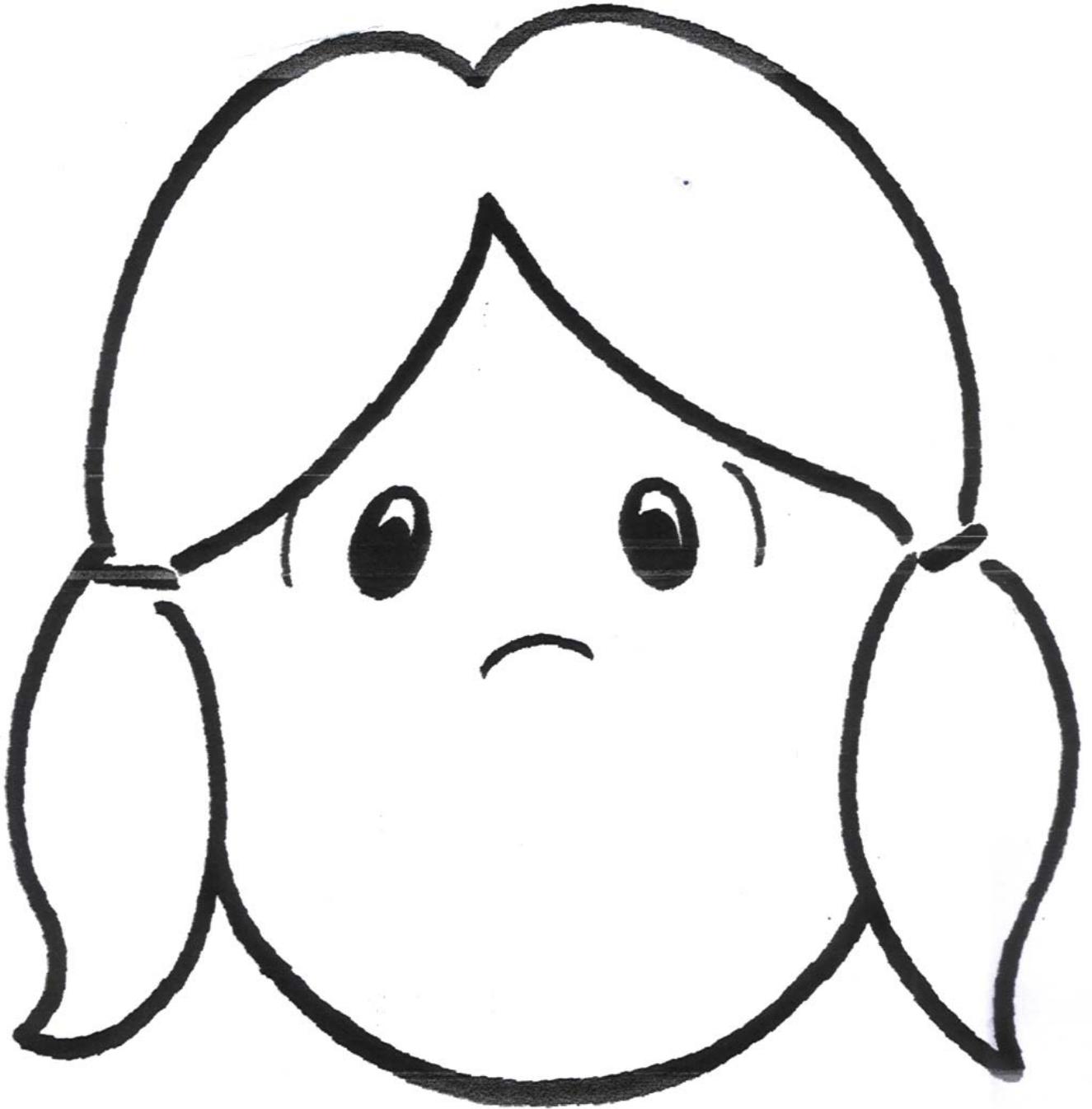
Apply lip stick to each child’s lips (use a Q-Tip for sanitary purposes)

Allow the children to press their lips onto their own picture forming a mouth for their craft.

Allow each child to choose their own color of yarn for hair.

Pass out yarn to each child and allow them to glue yarn onto their own pictures.

Allow to dry.



“Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.”



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Making our speech pleasing to God

In the Bible, God says “He who holds his tongue is wise. Proverbs 10:19. Do you know what that means? Does it mean that we should hold our tongue with our fingers, like this? (Hold tongue with fingers and try to talk) No! It means that when someone says something that is unkind about someone else, we are to keep our mouths shut. We should not talk badly about other people.

The Bible also says “May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight.” Psalm 19:14. What does this mean? It means that we should NEVER say anything that would make God feel bad. We should always try to say nice things about others and to others and that we shouldn’t even THINK bad things about others.

This morning I have a tube of toothpaste. I want you to watch very carefully and see what I am going to do with this toothpaste. (Open the toothpaste and squeeze all of the toothpaste out of the tube onto a paper plate). There, I think I have just about all of the toothpaste squeezed out of the tube. Now I need one of you to help me with the next part. (Choose one of the children to be your helper.) Okay, I want you to put all the toothpaste back into the tube. Can you do that? You can’t? You mean that you can’t put that toothpaste back into the tube once it is squeezed out? Of course not, that is silly isn’t it?

Did you know that very same thing is true of the words we speak? Have you ever said something that hurt someone’s feelings and heard them say, “You take that back!” You can’t take that back, can you? Once you have said it, it is said. You can’t put the words back in your mouth any more than you can squeeze this toothpaste back into the tube.

That is why we need to be very careful about the things we say. The Bible says, “He who holds his tongue is wise.”

All of you know the children’s rhyme that says. “Stick and stones may break my bones, but names can never hurt me.” That sounds nice, but it just isn’t true. Words can hurt. The Bible says, “Reckless words pierce like a sword.” Our words can cut like a knife. They can hurt others. We all know that God hears every word we say and he knows every thought we have in our minds. It is very important for us to be careful about the things we think and say.

The Bible says, “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.” Once we have said it, we can’t take it back. So let’s make sure that our words are pleasing to God. In other words, “Watch What You Say.”