

# God Provides Water

Exodus 17:1-7

Third- and fourth-graders often complain if they don't get things their way. They have specific likes and dislikes, and one of those dislikes is to feel deprived of something. Use this lesson to help kids see they don't need to complain when things don't go their way or when they don't get something they want. Help them focus on trusting God in every circumstance instead of complaining.



► **Bible Point**  
God is patient with us.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Sounds of Complaining</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear complaining sounds, and discuss caregivers' responses to those sounds.	Bibles, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Complaining Nation</b> <i>(about 25 min.)</i> Discuss the Bible passage to learn how the Israelites complained instead of trusting God.	Bibles, saltines, foam cups, brown construction paper, glue sticks, pitcher of water	
	<b>The Un-Gift</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Draw pictures, and understand what it feels like when someone is ungrateful for a gift.	paper, markers	

## Key Verse

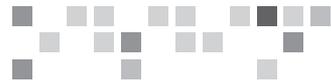
"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters" (Psalm 23:1-2).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will trust God instead of complaining.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



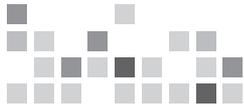


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Complaining or Trusting</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and draw pictures comparing complaining and trusting.	Bible Truth Sleuth, pencils, markers, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	Bible Truth Sleuth	

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.







### Sounds of Complaining Supplies

Bibles

CD player

#### Teacher Pack

CD: “Dog Whining”  
(track 6)

“Baby Crying” (track 7)

“Sheep Bleating”  
(track 8)

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Sounds of Complaining

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went. Have kids stand on one side of the room.

Ask:

- **What does it mean to complain?**
- **What’s something you’ve complained about recently? How did that turn out for you?**
- **How do others respond to your complaining?**

Say: **Let’s listen to some sounds that will help us think more about complaining.** Play “Dog Whining” (track 6 on the CD). Have kids identify the sound.

- **What’s your reaction to this sound? Explain.**

Play “Baby Crying” (track 7 on the CD). Have kids identify the sound.

- **Do you think this sounds the same as when you complain? Why or why not?**

Say: **This next sound is kind of like today’s Key Verse, which compares God with a shepherd. Imagine that you’re a shepherd watching over your sheep on a hillside.** Play “Sheep Bleating” (track 8 on the CD). Have kids identify the sound.

Say: **Let’s see how our Key Verse compares God with a shepherd.** Make sure kids all have a Bible, and have kids turn to Psalm 23:1-2. Ask a willing child to read aloud the Key Verse: “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.”

Have kids repeat the verse with you several times.

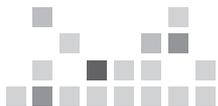
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How are a dog’s whine, a baby’s cry, a sheep’s bleat, and a person’s complaints similar or different?**
- **When you think about God as a shepherd and yourself as a sheep, what does this verse say about how God treats you?**
- **Keeping the Key Verse in mind, how is God patient with you?**





Say: **We often complain when we're afraid or feel as if we don't have control. And even though sounds like a dog's whining, a baby's crying, or a sheep's bleating may be a form of complaint, those who care still respond. Today we'll learn how God responded to a group of people who forgot to trust in his care and instead complained. The Bible Point tells us that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**



## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Complaining Nation

### What You'll Do

Say: **The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for a long, long time. God had performed many miracles so the Egyptian Pharaoh would set them free, and it worked! After the Israelites were set free, they wandered in the desert for many years. Today's Bible passage takes place while the Israelites wandered in the desert.**

Distribute a few crackers to each child, and have kids form groups of four. Allow kids to eat their crackers as they open their Bibles to Exodus 17. Have groups read aloud Exodus 17:1-3.

After kids have eaten the crackers and read the verses, have them compare their thirst after eating the crackers to the Israelites' thirst as they wandered in the desert. Ask kids to act out the feeling of extreme thirst.

Say: **The Israelites were afraid about not having water to drink. Because of their fear, they complained instead of talking to God. Now let's see how God responded to the Israelites' complaints.** Have kids find Exodus 17:4-7 in their Bibles, and have groups read the passage aloud.

Distribute a foam cup to each child, and give brown construction paper and glue sticks to each group of four. Show kids how to rub a glue stick over the sides of a cup, leaving the top lip clean. Then show kids how to tear construction paper and glue pieces of paper to the outside of the cup to make it look like a rock. When everyone has finished, pour water into the cups and allow kids to drink water from their "rocks."

### Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

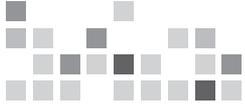
- How did your parents react the last time you complained?
- What do you think of God's response to the complaining of the Israelites?
- What can you know about God because of his reaction to the Israelites?

### Complaining Nation Supplies

- Bibles
- saltines
- foam cups
- brown construction paper
- glue sticks
- pitcher of water

**! ALLERGY  
ALERT**





### The Un-Gift Supplies

paper  
markers

Say: ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US** because he loves us. The Israelites wanted to know if God was going to take care of them. They let their fear turn concern into complaining, but God wanted them to know that he was there with them. He did something miraculous to care for them. When we mess up, ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

## The Un-Gift

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids form pairs, and have pairs sit in a circle. Distribute paper and markers to each pair. Say: **In your pairs, draw a picture for the pair to your right.** Allow about two minutes. Have kids come see you as a group, one child from each pair, as you sit in a far corner of your room away from the other kids.

Say: **You're about to receive a picture from another pair. When you get it, complain about receiving it. Say things like "I didn't want a drawing; I wanted a pet unicorn," or "But I wanted a million dollars." Your partner doesn't have to complain with you, but your job is to find ways to complain about receiving this gift. You won't make comments about the picture, but you will say things you wish you had instead.** Make sure children understand that they're pretend complaining, and remind them not to say hurtful things about one another or anyone's artwork.

Have pairs give their picture to the pair on their right. Allow time for the pairs to complain and those who gave them the picture to react.

Then have kids draw another picture on the back of the one they've just received. Allow about two minutes.

Ask the kids who you spoke with earlier to come talk to you again. Say: **You'll switch pictures again. This time, show how thankful you are to receive the picture from your friends. Say things like "I am so thankful you gave me such a special gift," or "Thank you for making this for me."** Have pairs give their picture to the pair on their left. Allow time for the pairs to thank each other and those who gave them the picture to react.

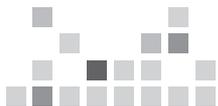
### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was different about thankfulness and complaining in our activity?**
- **What things do you expect others to say or do when you're helping them?**
- **How do you think that's like or unlike God's reaction to helping us?**

Say: ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.** He was patient with the Israelites, too. They wanted water, and they complained about their situation. God listened and patiently cared for them. We can be thankful instead of complaining.



**3** WEAVING FAITH  
INTO LIFE

# Complaining or Trusting

## What You'll Do

Set out pencils and markers. Have kids form trios, and distribute this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Have kids turn to the "Complaining or Trusting" activity. Have trios discuss what the Israelites might have said when they complained and write those words in the top left speech bubble. Play "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD) while kids follow the next set of instructions. Restart the song if you need to.

Say: **In your trios, discuss what the Israelites might have said if they'd remembered to trust God, and write those words in the top right speech bubble.** After a few minutes, have several willing kids share with the group what they wrote.

Say: **With your trio, discuss what kinds of things you all complain about.** In the bottom left square, each person can draw a picture to represent a complaint.

Say: **Finally, discuss how you can remember to trust God. Then each of you can draw a picture in the bottom right square to show how you can remember to trust God.** After a few minutes, have willing kids share with the entire group what they drew.

Distribute copies of the lyrics page, and play "Psalm 23" (track 4 on the CD). This time, lead kids in singing along with the CD.



**The Lord is my shepherd.**

**The Lord is my shepherd;**

**I shall not be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

**He leads me beside quiet waters.**

**He restores my soul.**

**He restores my soul.**

**He guides me in paths of righteousness**

**For his name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the valley**

**Of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil, for you are with me;**

**Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!**



## Complaining or Trusting Supplies

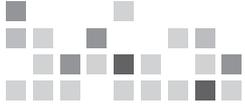
- Bible Truth Sleuth
- pencils
- markers
- CD player
- copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)

**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "Psalm 23" (track 4)

## Complaining or Trusting Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.





You prepare a table before me  
In the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup overflows.  
My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me  
All the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Forever, forever!

The Lord is my shepherd.  
The Lord is my shepherd.  
The Lord is my shepherd.  
The Lord is my shepherd.

“Psalm 23” by Jay Stocker. © 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s the difference between when you’re complaining and when you’re trusting God?
- What might it be like to trust God when you’re having a hard time in life?
- What do you think of the way God treats us regardless of if we complain or thank him?

Say: ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.** We aren’t always easy for him to deal with. Sometimes we complain and forget how good he is. We can ask God to help us remember to have an attitude of trust and thankfulness toward God. And we can thank him for being so patient with us.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■

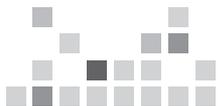
Say: I’d like you to consider how you can remember this week that ► **GOD IS PATIENT WITH US.**

Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

Fall Quarter

Lesson 3 ■■■■ Grades 3 & 4



Have kids find this week’s Daily Challenges on their Bible Truth Sleuth pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Pray about something you need or want from God. Practice patience this week by waiting for an answer from God.**
- **Help someone who’s younger than you as he or she learns to do something new. Be patient, and remember how God is patient with you.**
- **Think of something you’re trying to accomplish—whether you’re learning to play the piano or trying to get better grades in math—and pray for patience as you try to learn to do that thing. Remember how God is patient.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Let’s remember that ► GOD IS PATIENT WITH US as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how God is patient with us. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their Bible Truth Sleuth pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

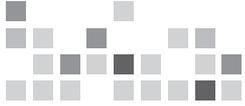
Have kids stand in a circle and place their Bible Truth Sleuth pages on the floor by their feet. Encourage kids to pray about ways they can remember God’s patience.



### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

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Bible Truth Sleuth





## Lyrics

### Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd.  
The Lord is my shepherd.  
The Lord is my shepherd.  
The Lord is my shepherd.

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures.  
He leads me beside quiet waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness  
For his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the valley  
Of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
Your rod and your staff, they comfort me!

You prepare a table before me  
In the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup overflows.  
My cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me  
All the days of my life,  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
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The Lord is my shepherd.  
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