

# SKY

Learning Obedience  
Series 1—Lesson 3

# StoryTime



## The Dreadful Gimmies

Primary 3–7

Bible Text:  
Exodus 16:4-35

Lesson Aim:

God wants you to be content with what He has given you and follow His directions.

God does not like a complainer

Memory Verse:

“Do all things without complaining and disputing”  
(Philippians 2:14).

Words to Learn:

- Protect
- Provide
- Complain

Always Close in Prayer

## The Teacher's Bible Study

**T**rust in God's promises deals with the future. It is the trust in “things not seen.” Of course, belief cannot be blind. It must be built on genuine conviction. It has to come from perceiving God's hand in creation, His work in history, and the experience of His fulfilled promises in one's own life. A Christian who is trusting in God in his day-to-day life realizes that physical promises may be delayed for his spiritual benefit, but he knows that his life is absolutely in God's hands no matter what!

The story of the children of Israel's rescue from slavery is the ALL-TIME great narrative about deliverance: Delivered from the plagues of Egypt! Delivered from death by lamb's blood smeared over the door! Delivered out of the life of slavery! Delivered from the pursuing Egyptians! Delivered from the searing daytime heat and the bone-chilling cold of desert darkness—by a covering cloud during the day and a pillar of fire by night.

God continued to reassure them by delivering them from need—He gave them food, water, and protection from harm.

When this immature people found themselves thirsty or their supplies running low, they began to grumble against Moses. They continued to “look back” longingly at their lives in Egypt as if to say their lives of slavery were not so bad, and freedom was a real pain. They did not show a trust in God to provide for their daily needs and seemed to suffer from short-term memory loss with great regularity. They complained about everything!

The awe of seeing God deliver them from slavery with astounding miracles didn't last very long for some. Even though God provided food in the wilderness, some desired the foods of Egypt.

God, in His mercy, was not ignoring the complaining Israelites. In His love and ability to supply their every need, He

provided another miracle: He gave them manna (bread) and quail (meat)—the very things they said they missed. The manna may have been similar to bread (Exodus 16:12) and it tasted like wafers mixed with honey (verse 16:31).

They were to collect only one omer for each person in their tent. An omer is slightly more than two quarts. It is one-tenth of an ephah (verse 16:36) which is about two-thirds of a bushel. If they collected more than advised it would spoil and stink horribly, with one exception.

They were to collect this amount daily except for the sixth day. Then they collected enough for the Sabbath as well. This bread would stay fresh! (Another sign of God's ability to make a miracle.)

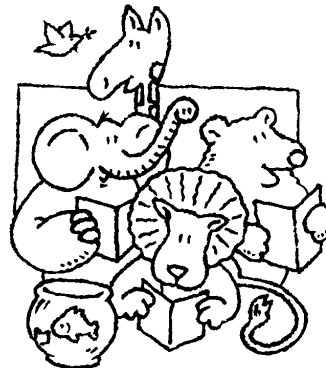
The children of Israel ate manna forty years—until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

The Israelites had difficulty learning the basic lessons of trust. Over and over again, God showed them His love and power. Yet, they were not responding to His guidance.

They did not show a firm belief in God's caring hand to meet their daily needs.

We need to be aware that, whatever the circumstances, we are in God's care. □

## Simple as 1,2,3...



### Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Philippians 4:11-13

Jude

Job 38

### Are You Listening?

*After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions*

1. What was the name of the special bread?—*Manna*
2. Did God bring the children of Israel out of slavery?—*YES*
3. Did the people complain a lot?—*YES*
4. Did Moses get mad at the people?—*YES*
5. Did God take care of the Israelites?—*YES*
6. If you won't listen to God's instructions, will bad things happen?—*YES*
7. Will God take care of you?—*YES*

### Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

- **Protect**—to defend or guard from harm.
- **Provide**—to supply.
- **Complain**—to find fault; to protest.

# SKY Story Time

## The Dreadful Gimmies!

**G**od to the rescue! The people of Israel had seen God do amazing miracles to bring them out of slavery in the land of Egypt.

As our story begins the people had just come through towering walls of water to safety. They had walked through the Red Sea to the land on the other side. And they didn't even get their feet wet!

They were afflicted with what we will call "The Gimmies." They weren't thankful for what they had, and they always wanted more!

**Gimme, Gimme, Gimme**

As the children of Israel followed their leader Moses through the wilderness, they began to complain. "What shall we drink?" Gimme water!

God then provided them with a miracle—turning bitter water into sweet. And finally God provided TWELVE wells of water and SEVENTY palm trees to rest beneath!

As they traveled on they began to complain again: "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full!..." Gimme meat and bread!

God again supplied what they said they were missing: quail came into the camp in the evening and special bread from heaven appeared on the ground in the morning.

**What is it?**

In the morning, dew was laying all around the camp. When the dew dried, there lay delicate, small, round wafer-like objects all over the ground!

The children of Israel said, "What is it?" Moses said, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat." When the sun became hot the manna would melt away. Moses instructed them to gather just enough for the number of people in their family.

An amazing thing then happened! If a person became greedy and gathered more than God told him he could have, the food did not last throughout the day! But those who gathered just a little would have all they wanted to eat, all day!

Not everyone was obedient. Those that tried to save the bread till morning found it full of wiggly worms, and it smelled REALLY bad. Moses was very angry with these people.

Moses had told them not to

save any of the bread till morning, only to eat what they needed each day and get rid of any leftovers. EXCEPT on the sixth day. On that day they could gather enough for two days.

They were to prepare all that they would need for the next day because the next day was the SABBATH DAY and they were to rest. Those that followed Moses' instructions found the bread did not stink or have any worms! Moses said, "Eat that today, for today is a Sabbath to the Lord; today you will not find it in the field. Six days you shall gather it, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath, there will be none."

As usual there were those who didn't listen.

Instead of being grateful for God's protection, they complained about everything.

Do you ever complain?

### Let's Talk About †

When we complain, we are sinning against God. We are saying to God that He doesn't provide GOOD things for us. Complaining is finding fault with what you have been given, being unthankful, and lacking in generosity.

Imagine that you worked very hard to earn the money to buy a special gift for someone you love. You wrap the present in beautiful paper and eagerly present it to them. The person opens the gift, looks inside, and says, "You never

buy me what I want. I'd rather have a better one," and then tosses the box into a pile of papers. Imagine how you would feel. Would you feel sad and hurt? Would you feel a little angry?

God is pleased when you show Him you are content with your life. How do you show contentment? Do not complain about whether you are too tall or short, your hair is straight or curly, or you have to share a room with your brother or sister; or you don't have this or that toy, or you can't stay up late. Being content means you are satisfied with what God gives you, and you thank Him daily in prayer. Just as God knew the needs of the children of Israel, He knows your needs. Be content knowing He will provide.

The End

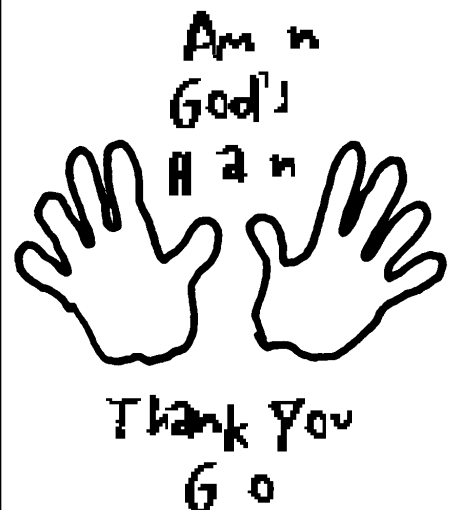
### Crafty Idea

**W**ith the poster board laying flat, have student place each hand that has been dipped into the finger paint with hands on the cardboard with thumbs touching in the middle. Or trace each hand with colored pens or crayons.

Within the hands have the student write—or write for them—"I Am in God's Hands," or their name. Discuss the lesson and end your prayer with "Thank you, God, for caring for us." □

## Crafty Ideas

A Great Place To Be.....



### Materials To Use:

- lightweight 6 x 7 poster board for each student
- washable finger paint (or trace outlines of hands)
- colored pens or crayons