

Sunday school lesson – Upper Primary

[illegible]

3. Mercy and judgement	<p>Read Numbers 11:11-14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: How did Moses respond to the people's complaining?</i> ➤ It was too much for Moses to keep loving and caring for people that only complain and wail. Yet this is exactly what God does! God also graciously provided for Moses, by setting apart 70 people to help him look after the people. <p>Read Numbers 11:18-20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God heard his people, just as he did when they were in Egypt. But this time, it has an ominous rather than comforting implication! • <i>Q: What does God say is the reason the people are complaining (v.20)?</i> ➤ God himself is among them (they just had to look up to see) but they rejected him and wanted something that they thought was better instead – meat! <p>Read Numbers 11:21-23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What did Moses see as a big problem?</i> ➤ Even after seeing everything God had done for them, Moses still couldn't quite believe that God could feed 600,000 men (and families) meat in the desert. ➤ Sometimes we see God provide for us in one situation, but then straight away doubt that he could provide in a different situation! <p>Read Numbers 11:31-34</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What is the answer to God's question in v.23?</i> ➤ God clearly showed he was well able to provide. Imagine being there and seeing piles of birds 90cm deep as far as the eye could see (you had to walk for a whole day to get beyond the birds!) ➤ And yet the people wanted to go back to slavery and eat cucumbers and garlic! ➤ They were offered the opportunity to have God himself (who could rain down mountains of meat) living with them, leading and guiding them. Their response was to say, "Why would we want that, when we could have cucumbers?" • <i>Q: Why do you think the people chose slavery and cucumbers over living with God in the desert?</i> ➤ Living with God involved hardship (they were in a desert). They had to follow him into the unknown. They needed to live his way. ➤ But if they had recognised what God had in store for them, and the privilege they had at the time by having God living amongst them, then they would have realised the hardship was a small thing in comparison.
So What?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What do you sometimes find hard when trying to live as a Christian?</i> • <i>Q: How can remembering what God is like and what he promises you help?</i> ➤ If you are not a Christian, you are choosing slavery and cucumbers over what God offers. They might seem great, but they are nothing compared to living with him.
Memory Verse	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Lower Primary

[illegible]

<p>3. Mercy and judgement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Act out a scenario – one person says to the other person that they have a choice between being friends or having a cucumber (<i>show actual or picture of a cucumber</i>). If they choose friendship, then the first person will take care of them, and be kind to them. If they choose the cucumber, then they can't be friends. The 2nd person then says, "I don't want to be friends, I want the cucumber". How would that make the first person feel? ➤ That is exactly what God's people were saying to God. "I don't care about being friends with you God, I just want cucumbers"! ➤ How foolish, to choose cucumbers over friendship with God. God is the best possible friend in all the world! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What do you think God said to his people when they treated him so badly?</i> ➤ God punished them for what they did. He sent a plague so lots of people got sick and some even died. ➤ But as well as punishing his people, God also gave them what they asked for! <p>Read Numbers 11:31-32</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He made a big wind, which blew over to them lots and lots and lots of birds. There were so many birds that if you stood up, the pile of birds would be above your head! (<i>Get them to stand up to demonstrate a pile 1½ meters high</i>) ➤ As far as could see, there were piles and piles of birds. If you walked all day, you would still be passing piles of birds. ➤ God's people had asked for meat – so God gave them meat! So much meat that they couldn't eat it all! ➤ <i>Q: Why did God give his people meat even though they had behaved so badly?</i> ➤ It was only because God is kind and merciful. Even though his people had treated him very, very badly, and said they would prefer cucumbers to being friends with God, he still was kind to them and gave them lots of food to eat!
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What are some things that you really wish you could have?</i> ➤ Having God as your friend is better than any of those things! It is better than anything else you can ever think of. ➤ God promises to always be with us and care for us, and to get us safely to heaven one day if we are trusting him. Nothing is better than that! ➤ Pray that the children would see how great it is to have God as their friend and to want that more than anything else.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>

Sunday school lesson – Pre-School

[illegible]

<p>3. Mercy and judgement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Act out a scenario – one person says to the other person that they have a choice between being friends or having a cucumber (<i>show actual or picture of a cucumber</i>). If they choose friendship, then the first person will take care of them, and be kind to them. If they choose the cucumber, then they can't be friends. The 2nd person then says, "I don't want to be friends, I want the cucumber". How would that make the first person feel? ➤ That is exactly what God's people were saying to God. "I don't care about being friends with you God, I just want cucumbers"! (relate back to "Getting Started" activity). ➤ How foolish, to choose cucumbers over friendship with God. God is the best possible friend in all the world! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: What do you think God said to his people when they treated him so badly?</i> ➤ God punished them for what they did. Lots of people got sick and some even died. ➤ But as well as punishing his people, God also gave them what they asked for! ➤ He made a big wind, which blew over to them lots and lots and lots of birds. There were so many birds that if you stood up, the pile of birds would be above your head! (<i>Get them to stand up to demonstrate a pile 1½ meters high</i>) ➤ As far as could see, there were piles and piles of birds (<i>demonstrate looking all around an only seeing birds</i>) ➤ God's people had asked for meat – so God gave them meat! So much meat that they couldn't eat it all! ➤ How kind God is! Even though his people had treated him very, very badly, and said they would prefer cucumbers to being friends with God, he still was kind to them and gave them lots of food to eat!
<p>So What?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Q: Who do you think is best possible person to be friends with?</i> ➤ Having God as your friend is better than anything else. He tells us we can be friends with him, if we say sorry and trust him to forgive us. ➤ Pray that the children would realise that having God as their friend is better than anything else, and so choose him over everything else.
<p>Memory Verse</p>	<p><i>Matthew 28:20b</i> Surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.</p>