

Trust God

(Are We There Yet?) - Trust God & Enjoy the Ride

OPENING:

Millions of families in this country will leave home this summer on vacation. They'll travel to places like Disney World, Six Flags, and the beach. When they get there, they'll visit museums, ride on sightseeing bus tours, ride roller coasters, make sandcastles, play in the water, or just lie in the sun.

But standing between those families and those happy memories is the road trip, the long journey from your driveway to the vacation paradise of your dreams. That means long hours in the cars, listening to mom and dad's old music, restroom stops, and that age old question: "**Are we there yet?**"

There's an old saying that says it's not the destination, but the journey that matters. But most people would just as soon skip the journey because they can't stop complaining. They need a potty. They want something different on the radio. They want something to eat. They want to know where they are, where they are going, and when will they get there!

Even though cars and road trips are a fairly recent invention, complaining about the journey is nothing new. In fact, if we go back to the book of Exodus, we'll see that Moses dealt with more than his share of complainers. Take a listen to what Moses had to deal with on that long road to Canaan.

Read: Exodus 16:1-16. The Israelites grumble against Moses.

16 Then the whole Israelite community left Elim. They came to the Desert of Sin. This place was between Elim and Sinai. They came to this place on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left Egypt. **2** Then the whole Israelite community grumbled to Moses and Aaron in the desert. **3** The Israelites said to them, "It would have been better if the Lord had killed us in the land of Egypt. There we had meat to eat. We had all the food we wanted. But you have brought us into this desert. You will starve us to death here."

4 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will cause food to fall like rain from the sky. This food will be for all of you. Every day the people must go out and gather what they need for that day. I will do this to see if the people will do what I teach them. **5** On the sixth day of each week, they are to gather twice as much as they gather on other days. Then they are to prepare it."

6 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites: "This evening you will know that the Lord is the one who brought you out of Egypt. **7** Tomorrow morning you will see the greatness of the Lord. He has heard you grumble against him. We are nothing. You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord." **8** And Moses said, "Each evening the Lord will give you meat to eat. And every morning he will give you all the bread you want. He will do this because he has heard you grumble against him. You are not grumbling against Aaron and me. You are grumbling against the Lord."

9 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Speak to the whole community of the Israelites. Say to them, 'Meet together in front of the Lord because he has heard your grumbings.'"

10 So Aaron spoke to the whole community of the Israelites. While he was speaking, they looked toward the desert. There the greatness of the Lord appeared in a cloud.

11 The Lord said to Moses, **12** "I have heard the grumbings of the people of Israel. So tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat. And every morning you will eat all the bread you want. Then you will know I am the Lord, your God.'"

13 That evening, quail came and covered the camp. And in the morning dew lay around the camp. **14** When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost were on the desert ground. **15** When the Israelites saw it, they asked each other, "What is that?" They asked this question because they did not know what it was.

So, Moses told them, "This is the bread the Lord has given you to eat. **16** The Lord has commanded, 'Each one of you must gather what he needs. Gather about two quarts for every person in your family.'

Discuss

So, the children of Israel had been slaves in Egypt. They had 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 their bellies started to growl in the desert, what did the people say? "We were better off in Egypt, where we were slaves!"

The Israelites were a truly ungrateful lot, and even after they were fed with manna they still complained. Sometimes, though, we sound just as bad. Mom and Dad go to all the trouble to plan a fun family get away, and all we do on the way is complain about being hot, being hungry, or not getting to listen to our music. And it's not just with Mom and Dad on road trips, where we complain. We complain in school, we complain at home, and we complain to God.

This is not what God wants for his followers. God wants us to be people who embrace the journey, who don't mind a little delayed gratification. He wants us to **trust Him**, and he has given us plenty of reasons to do so!

Remember:

- We can trust God and let go of our worries because he loves us enough to meet our needs.
- 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. He won't always answer in the way we expect, but he never fails to give us what we need.

The second reason we have to trust God and not complain is the Bible itself.

In the Bible we find story after story that prove God's faithfulness.

- God promised Abraham a son in his old age and delivered.
- God stuck by Joseph in prison and eventually led him to the throne of Egypt, where he saved his family from famine.
- God heard the cries of his captive people and sent Moses to set them free.

The children of Israel had these stories too, but they seemed to ignore them.

Instead of trusting the God of Abraham and Joseph who had already delivered them from slavery, they cried and complained for the few creature comforts they missed in Egypt.

We need to remember these stories of faithfulness, especially the one about Jesus coming to die for our sins.

- 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 can carry us through those times until his 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 those long car rides.

Closing:

When we remember that God loves us and is faithful, we can let go of our frustration.

- Whatever we are going through, it will pass, and God will lead us to our next destination.
- You don't need all the answers. You don't need to know how God is going to meet your needs.
- You simply need to trust him and obey.
- And while you're at it - give Mom and Dad a break too. Your parents love you, and if they're taking you on a vacation, it's because they love you.
- Complaining never made anyone less hungry. It never got anyone any closer to their destination.
- Let go of the spirit of complaint and trust the Lord. He won't let you go hungry, and even if you don't know where you're going, he will get you there safe and sound.

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for your awesome love. Thank you for providing for us and meeting all our needs. Forgive us for the times we have complained, and teach us to remember all your blessings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

Memory Verse:

In all the work you are doing, work the best you can. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

**Ask the kids what they think the writer was trying to say when he wrote these words. Then ask them how this verse is connected to today's story.

Crafts:

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VIDEO -God's Story – The Wilderness

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzN1jjiFnIA>

Veggie Tales: <https://app.pureflix.com/videos/407181862717/veggietales-moe-and-the-big-exit?recommended=q%3Aveggie%20tales%20moe>

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

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"Trust in the Lord"

Proverbs 3:5