

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER LESSONS

THANKSGIVING:

“MAD ABOUT MANNA”

Read Numbers 11:4-23, 31-34.

Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever become tired of eating a certain food? If so, what was it?
2. If you were camping in the desert on vacation and all you had to eat every day was pancakes, would you complain?
3. Once you got tired of eating pancakes, what might you wish you could eat instead?
4. In today’s Bible story, what did the Israelites want to eat instead of manna?
5. Why was God angry with the Israelites?
6. What special new food did God send for the Israelites to eat?
7. What did the Israelites name the place where they buried people who died in the plague?
8. How can we be thankful, even when things are not going the way we want them to?

Key concepts

It’s easy for us to sit here in our comfortable home where we eat a huge variety of foods each day and criticize the Israelites for worrying about water and whining about eating manna. But realistically, if we were living in a hot, dry desert and ate nothing but manna for days, we would likely do our share of complaining too.

God considers it sin when we are not thankful for the good things we have. If we think about what we don’t have, it is easy to start complaining. The best way to avoid having a “sad-itude” (an “oh poor me” attitude), is to praise God for what we *do* have, even when we think life is difficult or we don’t have all the things we think we want.

Make it real

For one meal, eat only one unsweetened, carbohydrate-based food, for example, brown rice, whole grain bread, potatoes, popcorn, crackers or oatmeal. Eat your “manna” with no salt, seasonings or extras such as ketchup, sauces, dips, dressings or butter. As you eat your meal that’s lacking in colour, variety, texture and flavour, talk about how the Israelites must have felt eating manna every day for forty years while camping in the desert. During your meal, you can also discuss children in underprivileged countries who are constantly hungry and have only one meal of rice each day, and also review your choice of the Scriptures below.

Practice being thankful for everything, even your “boring” meal. Here’s a thankfulness prayer based on Philippians 4:12: *Dear God, Please teach us the secret of being content in any and every situation. Help us to remember to thank You, whether we are well fed or hungry; whether we have lots of things or very little. Thank You. Amen.*

Relevant Scripture

- ❖ Psalm 107:9 “for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.”
- ❖ Psalm 111:5 “He provides food for those who fear Him; He remembers His covenant forever.”

Source: www.KidsofIntegrity.com