

PARENTS CHRONICLE

Growing in Grace at Grandview Park

COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN, COMPLAIN! – PART 2

We are taking the opportunity to use the *PARKids Parents Chronicle* to address some of the issues voted upon by parents in the parents' survey (you may recall that the results of the survey were passed along in the August edition of this newsletter). Back in June we began to discuss an issue that received quite a few votes—dealing with your child's arguing, complaining, and talking back.

We began by looking at the negative example of the Israelites, who never seemed to stop grumbling as they wandered in the desert (Ex. 15:22-25; 16:1-36; 17:1-17; Num. 14:1-4). We learned several things from them that can be taught to children who complain:

1. Complaining against God's authorities is actually complaining against God (Ex. 16:8).
2. Complaining often goes hand-in-hand with discontentment and ungratefulness (Ex. 16:3; Num. 14:1-4).
3. Complaining reveals a lack of trust in God (Num. 14:11).
4. God takes complaining very seriously (James 5:9).



What are some practical ways to help your children overcome constant complaining, arguing, and talking back?

1. **Get to the heart of the matter.** What is it the child really wants that is causing him to complain? Help him to see that his desires have become more important to him than obeying God by obeying his parents (Prov. 4:23; Mk. 7:21; Lk. 6:45; James 4:1-3).
2. **Get the log out of your own eye.** Is it possible that your child has learned to have a complaining and critical spirit from you? Is there anything you need to address in your own life before you can address it in the life of your child?
3. **Help him see God's perspective on complaining.** Show him the example of the Israelites (1 Cor. 10:9-11). Have him memorize Philippians 2:14-15:
Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.
4. **Teach contentment and thanksgiving.** We might think that the opposite of *complaining* is *not complaining*. But the opposite of complaining is *contentment and thanksgiving*. Teach him to be content (Phil. 4:11-13) and thankful (1 Th. 5:18; Col. 3:15-17) to God for what He has given. We are to give thanks to God in *all* things! Replace complaining with thanksgiving by having him make a list of things for which he can be thankful (be sure to remind him of

the many *spiritual* blessings for which we can be thankful).

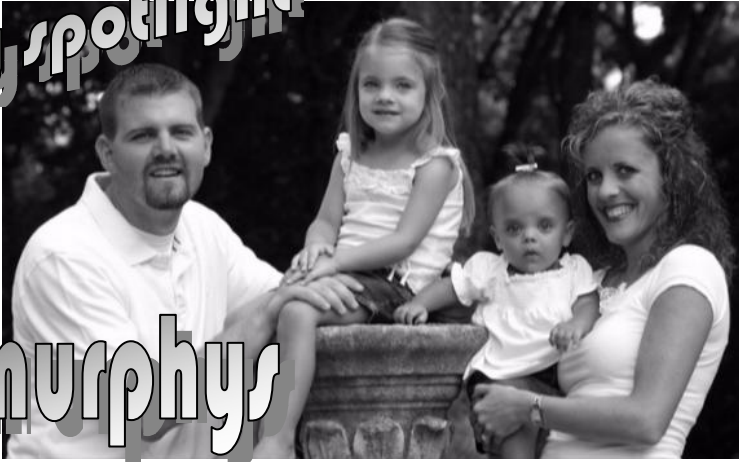
Have him pray to God, thanking him for those things.

The opposite of complaining is contentment and thanksgiving.

5. **Teach them how to make requests appropriately and to accept your responses.** Often complaints are simply requests in disguise. "There's nothing to eat around here" means "I'm hungry." "It's so boring in this family" means "I don't know what to do." Have him rephrase the complaint in the form of a polite question ("May I have a snack, please?" "Could you please help me find something to do?") Say "yes" to the request if possible; if not, teach him to respond appropriately to your rejection of his request. We have taught our children to say, "Yes, Mom" or "Yes, Dad" when they are told to do something or when their request is denied. (That's not to say our children always do it!)
6. **Discipline him lovingly for a continual attitude of complaining.** We might not think complaining is as big a deal as lying or stealing. But as we saw from our study of the Israelites, God thinks complaining is a "big deal." He punished the Israelites who complained by refusing to allow them to enter the Promised Land. We too must take complaining seriously and loving discipline our children for failing to obey God's Word in this matter.

family spotlight

the murphys



Family time together

Sports!

Favorite vacation

Washington, D.C.

Prayer requests

Maiah has a head ultrasound on Oct. 20

Janessa

Chris

- * *Birthday:* 2/1
- * *Job:* 6th Grade Teacher & Varsity Boys B-Ball Coach at GPBS
- * *Church Ministry:* Awana Boys Truth & Training Leader
- * *Favorite Bible verse:* Ps. 62:1
- * *Favorite food:* steak
- * *Enjoys:* sports & coaching

Delaine

- * *Birthday:* 3/6/05
- * *Favorite Bible story:* Noah & Ark
- * *Favorite food:* ice cream
- * *Enjoys:* preschool; Polly Pockets; playing w/ her "babies"; sports
- * *Funny quote:* After finding out her grandma was late to pick her up at preschool because she got pulled over, she told her teacher her grandma couldn't pick her up because she was in jail

Maiah

- * *Birthday:* 6/28/07
- * *Favorite food:* EVERYTHING, but especially loves ice cream
- * *Enjoys:* playing w/ dolls & balls; following big sister around

- * *Birthday:* 3/11
- * *Job:* Beadrageous Jewelry Consultant; GPBS Varsity Volleyball Coach
- * *Church Ministry:* Awana Sparks Leader; God's Garden Caregiver
- * *Favorite Bible verse:* Heb. 12:1-2
- * *Favorite food:* ice cream dessert
- * *Enjoys:* spending time with family; shopping (finding bargains!); running/working out; volleyball; Kansas Jayhawk B-ball

READ MY QUIDS

BACK TO SCHOOL

American History (according to student bloopers) part 2

America was founded by four fathers. Delegates from the original 13 states formed the Contented Congress. Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were two singers of the Declaration of Independence, which says that all men are created equal. John Hancock signed first because he was president and a very heavy man.

Franklin had gone to Boston carrying all his clothes in his pocket and a loaf of bread under each arm. He invented electricity by rubbing two cats backwards and declared, "A horse divided against itself cannot stand!" Franklin died in 1790 and is still dead.

George Washington led the United States to what it is today. Washington crossed the Delaware River, married Martha Custis, and in due time became the Father of Our Country. The difference between a king and a president is that a king is the son of his father, but a president isn't. Washington's farewell address was Mount Vernon.

Soon the Constitution of the United States was adopted to secure domestic hostility. Under the Constitution, the people have the right to bare arms. After the Constitution was finished, Washington and Franklin added the bill for rice.

Abraham Lincoln became America's greatest precedent. Lincoln's mother died in infancy, and he was born in a log cabin which he built with his very own hands. When Lincoln was president, he wore only a tall silk hat. He said, "In onion there is strength."

Lincoln was president during the Civil War. Matthew Brady, a filmer, took a picture of it. The Civil War was started by John Brown, a rabbit abolitionist, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote *Uncle Tom's Cabinet*. They caused the Southern states to succeed.

Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address while traveling from Washington to Gettysburg on the back of an envelope. He spoke at the dedication of a dormitory for the wounded soldiers who died at Gettysburg.

He also freed the slaves by signing the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln debated John Kennedy in 1960. Kennedy won because he looked better than Lincoln, who had pallor due to his assassination.

From *The Bride of Anguished English* by Richard Lederer (NY: St. Martin's Press, 2000), 12-13.