

## 10. SWEET TO BITTER AND BITTER TO SWEET

After Moses delivered the Israelites from the Egyptians, they sang a song to praise God. We might say they had a sweet attitude.

As the Israelites traveled, they ran out of water. For three days, they “found no water” (Exodus 15:22). When they came to Marah, they found they could not drink the water because it was bitter.

We might say the people had a bitter attitude. Instead of asking Moses to pray and ask God to help them, they “murmured [complained] against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?” (Exodus 15:23).

God showed Moses a tree, and told him to cast it into the water. When he did, the water tasted sweet (Exodus 15:24). God told Moses that if the Hebrew people would obey Him, He would not give them any of the plagues He gave to the Egyptians. Read Ex. 15:27.



Have you ever had a bitter attitude? Did you pout when you did not get your own way? Do you ever complain to your parents because you have to clean your room or do a little work around the house?

How does God want you to act? He does not want us to complain like the Israelites did! Philippians 2:14 says, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings.” This means we should not complain to our parents or argue with them.

Write T before each True statement and F before each False statement. Or use happy faces for True.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. After Pharaoh let the Hebrew people go, God told them to eat unleavened bread every year during Passover to remember what happened.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Unleavened bread does not have any yeast in it, or anything to make the bread rise.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. God's people had a good (or sweet) attitude when they were singing praises to Him after they crossed the Red Sea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The Hebrew people were angry with God because He caused the water to cover the Egyptians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The people complained to Moses when they came to Marah because the water was bitter and they could not drink it. We might say their attitude was bitter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. God showed Moses a rod and told him to cast it into the water to make it sweet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. God told Moses that if the Hebrew people would obey Him, He would not bring any of the plagues on them like He did to the Egyptians.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When the Israelites came to Elim, they found twelve wells of water.

**NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER:** My students enjoyed the Kool-Aid® illustration, showing the difference between bitter and sweet. It is explained in the teachers' instructions found below.

## **LESSON TEN: SWEET TO BITTER AND BITTER TO SWEET**

### **OBJECTIVES:**

**Emphasize the importance of having a sweet attitude** during today's lesson. Show that grumbling and complaining is not pleasing to God.

Third and fourth graders might be able to use hymnals and sing, "Angry Words." Non-readers could sing "Oh Be Careful Little Eyes What You See," or any other song which teaches a lesson about attitudes and how a person's attitude affects their behavior.

When you are teaching the lesson, or having children read it, be sure to read Ex. 15:27, as it will answer the last true and false question. It is good practice to have the children find Bible passages. Help younger ones find the place, even if they can't read the verse. In a multi-age classroom, have older students assist younger ones when finding Bible passages.

**For a visual aid** and/or a picture to take home, use blue, brown (or black) and green construction paper. Cut a slit in the middle of one blue page for each child. At the top write, "GOD MADE THE WATER SWEET." (Let older students write it themselves.) Cut out tops and bottoms of trees for young children, and let older students make their own trees. They should paste the top to the trunk, then stick the tree through the hole in the water.

**Bitter to Sweet** taste bud lesson. Help your students get a taste of the difference between bitter and sweet. Take a package of unsweetened Kool-Aid® to class, along with a pitcher. Before class, mix the water and Kool-Aid®, but **do not** add any sugar. Have a small cup for each child who wishes to participate. As you teach about the bitter water, let them taste the bitter drink you have prepared. When you explain how God caused the water to turn sweet when Moses obeyed and had a tree put into the water, add the sugar and stir. Give each child a larger serving of the sweetened Kool-Aid®. (If possible, give each child an ice cube or two to make it taste even better as compared to the bitter drink.)

**True and False:** 1-T; 2-T; 3-T; 4-F; 5-T; 6-F; 7-T; 8-T.