



# Mad Props

## Moses: The Red Sea and Wilderness

**BIG IDEA:** God is giving, so we can be thankful without complaining.

**BIBLE BASIS:** Exodus 13:17–17:7

**KEY VERSE:** “Do everything without grumbling or arguing.” Philippians 2:14 (NIV)

### ★ SMALL GROUP CONNECT

#### “MAD PROPS” COMMUNITY BUILDER

**Say:** Hello everybody! Can you believe it? Today is our very last day of “Mad Props.” Don’t worry, though! We have one more “Mad Props” story to go and it’s a *great* one! We’re going to hear how God did something incredible for the Israelites, but they still complained. Before we get to that story, let’s play our “Mad Props” game one more time.

**Directions:** Hold up a Slinky® (or other random object) for the kids to see. Tell the kids to imagine all of the things that the Slinky® could be other than a Slinky®. To get them started, hold the Slinky® over your nose and stretch it out like an elephant trunk. Have the kids take turns holding the Slinky® and showing everyone what else it could be. Challenge the group to come up with as many ideas as possible. When finished, ask the kids the following question:

**Question:** What are some of the things you complain about the most? (*Optional: have your kids say what it is in their whiniest voice.*)

#### ADDITIONAL TIME ACTIVITY—THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN

If you have additional time before Large Group begins, play “Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.” Simply ask the kids in your group to share one good thing that happened this week (thumbs up) and one not-so-good thing (thumbs down). This is a great way for your group to share celebrations and struggles with one another.

### ★ LARGE GROUP LESSON





## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### THE BIG BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS

#### For Younger Kids:

1. In what ways were you able to see God taking care of His people in this story?
2. If you were Moses, how would you have felt when the people were complaining? Why?

#### For Older Kids:

1. What do you think this story teaches us about God?
2. Why do you think God continued to take care of His people even though they were complaining?  
Look up Deuteronomy 6:7 to see the answer.

### THANKFULNESS COLLAGE (Application Activity)

**Say:** In our story for today, God provided for the Israelites in a huge way when He divided the Red Sea and helped them escape the Egyptian army. But it wasn't long before they forgot these amazing acts of God and began to worry and complain. Sometimes when we complain, it's because we forget about all of the amazing things that God has already done for us and given us. We're going to spend some time remembering different things we have to be thankful for by making a "Thankfulness" collage.

**Directions:** Place a poster board or butcher block paper in the middle of your group. Spread out the magazines provided among the kids. Tell them to search through the magazines for pictures, words or sentences that represent what they're thankful for. When they find something, they can cut it out with scissors and paste it to the poster board with a glue stick. When enough time has passed or when there are enough things on the board(s), gather your kids back together and ask them to point out what they found. Ask them why they are thankful for the things they put on the poster board or paper. When finished, ask the following questions:

**Question:** Is there anything else that you're thankful for that's not already on the board? What are the non-material things that we have to be thankful for?

**Question:** If you think about these things a lot more, do you think it would help you to stop complaining? Why or why not?

### BIBLE BODY MOTIONS (Bible Memorization Activity)

**Directions:** Place the Bible verse sign in the middle of the group and read it carefully with your kids several times so they can begin to memorize it. Today's Bible verse says:

**"Do everything without grumbling or arguing." Philipians 2:14 (NIV)**

Tell your group they have to work together to come up with motions for the verse using their body. The activity will take place over 3 rounds. Each round will involve a different part of the body. For each round, call on kids one at a time and ask for their suggestions. When they're ready, flip the Bible verse card over and have the group repeat the verse several times using the motions. When finished, move on to the next round. See below for the list of rounds:



**Round 1:** Hand motions

**Round 2:** Foot motions

**Round 3:** Head motions

**Question:** Our Bible verse says that we should do *everything* without grumbling or arguing. Do you think it would be possible for you to never grumble or argue? What would you have to do to make that possible?

## **INTO THE HANDS OF GOD** (Group Prayer Activity)

**Directions:** Give each kid in your group a blank piece of paper and a marker or crayon. Tell them to trace their hand onto the paper. At the top, have the kids write "God's Hand." For younger kids, you may want to help them with the spelling.

**Say:** When you put something into God's hands, it means that you trust He'll help you with it and you stop worrying or feeling guilty about it. Right now, we're going to think through some things that worry us. Write down or draw a picture of something that is worrying you inside of the hand.

**Directions:** When kids are finished writing or drawing, encourage them to share with each other what they put into God's hands. When finished, open your group in prayer. Invite kids who are comfortable to pray aloud and to hand over their requests to God. Afterwards, encourage the kids to continue praying for themselves and each other throughout the next week.

