March 12, 1888 - The day the largest city in the world was buried. What started out as a normal spring rain, turned into a downfall of drifting, piling snow. We hear Mr. Knickerbocker exclaim to his wife his dismay of being delayed from going on their outing. As Mr. Knickerbocker read the weather forecast to his wife, he seemed very assured that their town was just in for some rain. Suddenly, the snow started falling from the sky. The next day, snow was still falling. Telegraph wires have broke under the heavy strain of ice.

Deeper and deeper the snow piled until the roads become impassable to wagons. Trains no longer ran, boats were lost out at sea and New York was cut off from the rest of the world. Tuesday the blizzard still raged. People risked their lives just to step outside the doors of their homes. Wednesday dawned and the snow stopped. Once again, citizens came out of their homes as the sun began melting away snow. New York came back to life again. In the blizzard that lasted some 36 hours, 400 lives were lost and property damage cost millions of dollars. The storm of 1888, paralyzed not only New York City, but other large cities like Washington DC, Baltimore, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia.

On December 26, 1947, only 41 years after the blizzard of 1888, another snow storm rolled into the same areas and was much more severe. This time, though, only 27 lives were lost in the 99 million tons of snow that were dumped. With the help of modern machines and conveniences, many lives were saved.
Factoids and interesting tidbits....

New York City is the most populated cities in the United States. Now, with over 8.2 million residents, it has earned it's nickname of "the city that never sleeps". In 1664, the name "New York" was given by conquering British in honor of the English Duke of York and Albany. Residents of the city are known as New Yorkers.

In March 1888, the heavy snowfall, hurricane-like winds and dropping temperatures unexpectedly surprised and paralyzed the East Coast from the Chesapeake to Maine for 3 days. New York city is said to have suffered the most during the 'Great White Hurricane,' as it was called. With telephone and telegraph lines dead, food and coal became scarce, a three-block trip via horse-drawn transportation soon cost fifty dollars. The blizzard had long-reaching impact in New York, within the years that followed, an underground wiring system for phones and telegrams was enforced and construction of its subway system commenced.

For more research and information on the blizzard of 1888....

http://www.infoplease.com/spot/blizzard1.html
http://www.stamfordhistory.org/ph_0301.htm
http://www.lifesavingmuseum.org/information/storm88.html

Discussion:

What would you of done if you and your family were trapped in the Great White Storm of 1888? How would you of felt? If your family would of ran out of food, would you of gone out into the storm?

How many lives were lost during the blizzard of 1947 compared to 1888? What are ways that technology and modern machines have helped us during events like blizzards?

Moral lesson:

Mr. Knickerbocker was upset that the rain had spoiled their Sunday plans. He complained that his day was ruined. When his wife tried to cheer him saying "rain make the flowers to grow", he grumbled even more about the rain. When a man passing by loses his hat by the winds, Mr. Knickerbocker laughs at the man and scorns him for going out in the rainy weather. Mr. Knickerbocker then checks the day's paper to see what the forecast is for the day and he trusts what the weather man has printed on the newspaper, but the forecast turns out wrong as the snow begins to fall.
Do you complain when things don't go your way? Just like the Israelites murmured (complained) about the manna the Lord had given them to eat (see Numbers 11:4-6), we often complain when things don't go our way or we don't get what we want. Complaining is really a way of being ungrateful. When we complain and murmur, we show those around us that we cannot be content with what is happening in our lives.

Do all things without murmurings and disputings. Philippians 2:1

Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Ephesians 4:29