

GRATEFULL



2-WEEK STUDY

HOW COMPLAINING AND COMPARISON
TRY TO STEAL OUR GRATITUDE

WEEK 1

DISCUSSION GUIDE

COMPLAINING IS... IDOLATRY?

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Secondary texts from this week: Exodus 3:7, 15:24, 16:2-3, 17:3, Numbers 11:1, 11:10-14, 12:1-2, 14:1-4, 20:1-5, 14:27-33

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To develop a thankful heart.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is one of your worst pet peeves?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is thankfulness an important part of the Christian life? What ways do you give thanks on a regular basis in your own life?
2. What are some of the things that typically keep you from consistent thankfulness?
3. Have group members read the following passages:

1 Chronicles 16:34 | Psalm 106:1 | Psalm 107:1 | Psalm 118:1 | Psalm 136:1

What do these verses all have in common? Why do you think it's significant that this phrase is among the most recurring phrases (some would argue that it's the **most** commonly used phrase) in the Bible?

4. This week Pastor Doug talked about the danger of complaining. How often do you find yourself complaining? Is complaining a small problem in your life, or a big problem in your life?
5. Pastor Doug said that "complaining is a form of idolatry, because it focuses our attention on something other than God." Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
6. Have someone in the group read **Luke 17:11-19**? Does it surprise you that only one of the men came back to thank Jesus? What does that tell you about our human tendencies?
7. Have someone in the group read **Philippians 4:4-9**. What does this passage remind us about thankfulness? What does it remind us about the importance of protecting our thought life?

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PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray that each person in your group would have joy and gratitude this holiday season.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God would help you have joy and gratitude this holiday season.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

This week is Thanksgiving week. Start each day by reading Psalm 100. When you sit down for a Thanksgiving meal, pause and read Psalm 100 out loud before you eat as a way to center your heart on God's goodness and faithfulness.

NOTES
