

My Big Fat Mouth Part 2 *Complaining*

Message to Conversation Guide

Key Text

Philippians 2:14-16

*14 Do everything without complaining or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God **without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe** 16 as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. NIV*

1. Some of the things that we complain about are:

- The traffic and the roads
- Politics
- Our Neighbors
- The government

List 10 additional things that you are tempted to complain about.

2. Complaining is basically a preoccupation with annoying and negative things. According to the verse below what are believers in Jesus supposed to be preoccupied with?

Colossians 2:6-7

*6 So then, just as **you received Christ Jesus as Lord**, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, **and overflowing with thankfulness**. NIV*

Ephesians 5:20

*20 **always giving thanks to God the Father for everything**, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. NIV*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 **give thanks in all circumstances**, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. NIV*

3. How does the Samaritan that was formerly a leper respond to what Jesus did for him? What was the powerful preoccupation of his mind in this story?

Luke 17:10-16

11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. 12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance 13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" 14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, **came back, praising God in a loud voice. 16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him** — and he was a Samaritan. NIV

4. We should not be shocked when we encounter something that is not perfect in this world because the world or anything in the world is not perfect. Discuss how positive acceptance of the imperfect reality of this world can help us to not react or be shocked when we encounter the imperfect. Discuss:

- **Nothing is perfect or without flaws in this world!**

5. In light of the amazing miracle that took place in the story below what were the Jews (Religious leaders) focused on? Discuss the principle that we can be surrounded by grace and goodness and yet fixate on one negative aspect of our lives.

John 5:1-10

5 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 5 **One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.** 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"

7 "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."

8 Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." 9 At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, 10 **and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."** NIV

6. In the story of the twelve spies (**Numbers 13:1-33**) going into the land of Canaan what was Caleb focused on? What were the rest of spies focused on? Discuss the principle that there are always two options for us to look at in any situation.