

2023



# SMALL FOXES OF COMPLAINT

SMALL FOXES SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

As we enter the last quarter of the year, we know God still has time to do something miraculous.

## THIS WILL BE YOUR RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

Song of Songs 2:15 NIV -[15] Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

Song of Songs 2:15 MSG -[15] Then you must protect me from the foxes, foxes on the prowl, Foxes who would like nothing better than to get into our flowering garden.

Small foxes(little things) left unchecked can destroy everything that should be blooming or developing. Today we look at the small foxes of our complaints. Our mouth is a powerful tool, you were created in the image and likeness of God, whatever God spoke was created.

James 3:5-6 NIV -[5] Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. [6] The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

- Watch what comes out of your mouth; it goes into areas you never knew it could affect
- What you speak can and will affect your whole life
- Everything that shows up in your head does not have to come out of your mouth
- Remember the kingdom of God is voice-activated
- The enemy knows there is power in your tongue, we have to discipline ourselves to change our language

*What are you speaking daily? What affirming words of God's promises are in your vocabulary?*

Let's look for an example of how the power of words can go against the plan of God and negatively shift the atmosphere. The children of Israel were supposed to go through the wilderness into the promised land. Their tongues turned an 11 day journey into a 40 year experience.

## THE PAST

{WHAT THEY HAD SEEN}

Exodus 19:4 NIV - "You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. "

### WHAT THEY HAD SEEN

- THE PLAGUES - ALL 10 PLAGUES AND NOT ONE HIT THEM
- GOD DELIVER THEM FROM 400 YEARS OF SLAVERY
- GOD PART THE RED SEA
- GOD DRY THE GROUND
- GOD DESTROY THE ENEMY
- GOD RAIN DOWN MANNA
- GOD BRING WATER OUT OF A ROCK

- You are a witness that God is able to do amazing things
- God delivered you when you saw no way out
- God did all of that to let you know you are the apple of His eye

*What miracles have you witnessed with your own eyes? How has what you saw God do in the past encouraged you?*

## THE PRESENT

{WHAT THEY NOW SEE}

Numbers 13:27-28, 31-33 NIV - [27] They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and **it does flow with milk and honey!** Here is its fruit. [28] But the **people** who live there are **powerful**, and the **cities** are **fortified** and **very large**. We even saw descendants of Anak there. [31] But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; **they are stronger than we are.**" [32] And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "**The land we explored devours those living in it.** All **the people we saw there are of great size.** [33] We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We **seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them.**"

- Your present challenges erases your memory bank of previous victories
- God is adding to your list of victories
- Looking at your present challenges blocks your vision of the future
- The promise is exactly as God says it is; It is big , huge, gigantic and for you
- Stop making a list of your challenges

- Nothing is more powerful than your God

*Why do you keep looking at the challenges instead of focusing on the promise? What is your biggest challenge right now?*

## WHAT THEY SEE

- POWERFUL PEOPLE
- FORTIFIED CITIES
- VERY LARGE CITIES
- PEOPLE STRONGER THAN THEM
- DEVOURING LAND
- LARGER PEOPLE
- THEMSELVES AS GRASSHOPPERS
- Others may appear impressive, but you have GOD!
- Don't worry about what they look like
- God is fulfilling a promise to you, but He is making you work for it.

## NEVER SAW THE PROMISE!

- You cannot make it to the promise if you stay in the past or present
- Your promise is waiting for you to catch up

**WHAT YOU SAW WAS THE PAST, WHAT YOU SEE IS YOUR PRESENT,  
WHAT YOU SPEAK IS YOUR FUTURE!!**

## WHAT THEY SAID IS THE FUTURE

Numbers 14:1-4 NIV - [1] That night all the members of the community ***raised their voices and wept aloud.*** [2] All the ***Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron,*** and the whole assembly said to them, "***If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness!*** [3] Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us ***fall by the sword?*** Our ***wives and children*** will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" [4] And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

- What you speak will be your future, monitor what comes out of your mouth
- Your current challenges aren't as big as what God got you out of
- Heaven is listening to how you respond to the challenge
- Don't speak death and destruction over you and your family

- You will have what you say, your mouth is a tool that can talk you out of your blessing
- Some things are taking so long, because of your tongue and what you are speaking

*What are you declaring according to God's promises? What does your future look like?*

### **THEY SPOKE GOING BACK AND DEATH!!!**

- You cannot replay the past in your mind or continually speak on what was
- If you turn around now, you will be returning to the death of your future

### **GOD'S RESPONSE TO THE SMALL FOXES OF COMPLAINTS**

*Numbers 14:11 NIV - The Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? How long will they refuse to believe in me, in spite of all the signs I have performed among them?"*

- God is not pleased with your complaints
- Your track record with God should assure you of His faithfulness
- When you forget what God has already done, you dishonor Him

*Numbers 14:27-28 NIV - [27] "How long will this wicked community **grumble against me?** I have heard the complaints of these grumbling Israelites. [28] So tell them, **'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very thing I heard you say:***

- YOU TREAT GOD WITH CONTEMPT(DISRESPECTFUL)
- YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE IN GOD
- YOU REJECT THE PREVIOUS SIGNS PERFORMED
- YOU GRUMBLE AGAINST GOD
- YOU PROPHECY YOUR FUTURE

- In Luke 22:3 and John 13:27, we learn Satan entered Judas
- We have to be careful not to let what happens to give us over to the enemy
- Learn to resist the devil so he will flee
- Your praise has to outrun your complaints

*Reflect over your life, what victory have you forgotten that caused you to dishonor God. Have you repented? If not, why? What gateway have you allowed Satan to enter in your life?*

### **FLIP THIS!GUARD IT**

*Psalms 141:3 NIV - Set a guard over my mouth, Lord; keep watch over the door of my lips.*

- God keep me from speaking evil
- My words will edify, encourage and glorify God

*What is your plan of attack to guard your mouth? Who will be your accountability partner?*

## **WHAT GUARDING YOUR WORDS DOES FOR YOU PRESERVES YOUR LIFE**

*Proverbs 13:3 NASB - The one who guards his mouth preserves his life; The one who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.*

- If you can control that small member in your mouth you can control the trajectory of your life, stop mentioning what don't matter

*Why do you struggle with guarding your mouth?*

## **ENJOY YOUR LIFE AND SEE MANY HAPPY DAYS**

*1 Peter 3:10 NLT - For the Scriptures say, "If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies.*

- Guarding your words leads to a happy life
- Just because you feel it doesn't make it true

*What was the last lie you told? What prompted you to lie?*

## **RELEASES MANY BENEFITS**

*Proverbs 12:14 NLT - Wise words bring many benefits*

- Recalling God's word back to Him, unlocks the keys to the kingdom
- Declaring God's word activates His hand to move on your behalf

*What words of wisdom are you speaking over your life, your family, and your current situation?*

## **QUESTION**

*How can you change your complaints to compliments or praises?*

## **DECLARATION**

*I AM...ANOINTED, BLESSED, COURAGEOUS, DELIVERED, FREE, HEALED, LOVED, NEEDED, PROSPEROUS, REDEEMED, STRONG. I AM A CHILD OF THE MOST HIGH GOD!*

## **PRAYER**

*Father God, I thank You for revealing to me the little foxes in my life. Help me God to no longer complain about things that You are already in control of. Give me the ability to remember the past victories so that I am not bound to my present situation. Teach me to monitor my words. I desire to only speak Your word over every adversity that I face that by faith, I shall be victorious. I will continue to praise You God for all that You have already done, in Jesus' name, Amen!*