

Complaining

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¹¹ They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you brought us to the desert to die? What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" Exodus 14:11-12

"You are not grumbling against us, but against the Lord." Exodus 16:8

What in your life do you complain about most? _____

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation..."
Philippians 2:14-15

If you can change your circumstances, do something about it.

If you can't change your circumstances, change your perspective.

But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. Philippians 2:17-18

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.
Philippians 1:12-13

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; ³ Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; ⁴ Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; ⁵ Who satisfies your years with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle. Psalm 103:2-5 NASB

Connect

What in your life do you complain about the most?

Word and Reflection

Whether it's the weather, the traffic or the grumpy co-worker – we can always find something to complain about. But how would our view of complaining change if we knew God was the end recipient? If you can't change your circumstances, you can still change your perspective. Practice being more grateful and thanking God for all of the blessings He has given you.

Exodus 14:11-12, 16:8; Philippians 1:12-13, 2:17-18; Galatians 2:20; Acts 20:24; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Psalm 103:2-5

- Which part of the message made an impact, caught your attention or challenged you?
- Read Exodus 16:8. How would it change your view of complaining if you knew God was the end recipient?
- Read Philippians 2:17-18. What do you think Paul (the writer) is trying to say?
- Do you more often need to change your circumstances or your perspective? Explain.
- Read Philippians 1:12-13. How could you, like Paul, flip your perspective about the struggles you're facing?
- What are some blessings you haven't been grateful for lately? How can you regularly turn these blessings into gratitude toward God?

Action

- Declare a complaining-free week.
- Practice changing your perspective this week and choose to be more grateful instead. As a group, hold each other accountable.

Prayer

- Take some time to pray and thank God for all of the incredible blessings He has given you.
- Pray for the people in your Grace Group and those you're reaching out to.