

September 26, 2022 – CHRIS LINDBERG

I'M GIVING UP COMPLAINING

Big Idea

How many of you know somebody who it just seems that they, always have something to complain about? How many of you are that person? It's so interesting that some people seem to complain about everything. It doesn't matter what it is; they will always find something to complain about. If it is hot, it's too hot for them; if it is cold, it is too cold. Also, many people think: *"What's the big deal about complaining? Everybody does it. It's not such a big deal"* Interesting enough, you find the topic of complaining over and over and over and over in your Bibles, and it shows up in the very first story in the scripture when Eve tempted Adam and Adam sinned. God came walking through the Garden on the cool of the day, and he said, and what happened and Adam said what he said: *"God, it's your fault is the woman that you gave to me that's the reason why this is all happening,"* and we find in the very first story in our Bible this idea of complaining.

1. Complaining offends the heart of God. (read Numbers 11:1-2)
2. Complaining carries significant consequences. (read Numbers 14:27-28, 30)

You need to know today. You have to choose:

- If you want to be divisive, if you want to hurt the heart of God, if you want to drive people away from you, if you're going to harm yourself, become a complainer and then normalize it.
- If you want to be somebody that is distinguished, if you want to be somebody that raises the standard in a falling world and live a life of significance that is going to bring glory and honor to God with your actions, your thoughts, take this challenge and decide to give up complaining.

Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:29 (NIV)**
Do not let any **unwholesome talk come out of your mouths**, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
- **Philippians 2:14-15, 17-18 (NIV)**
Do everything without **complaining or arguing**, so that you may become **blameless and pure, children of God** without fault in a crooked and depraved generation... 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**. So you too should **be glad and rejoice with me**.

Discussion Question

- How can complaint harm your relationships with God? Family? Friends?
- What are you tempted to complain about?
- How do we go about restraining our complaining?

Prayer Focus

Dear Lord, thank you for your patience with all our complaints. We are grateful for everything you have done in our lives, your protection so bad situations wouldn't worsen, and all the happy times. Thank you for allowing us to change our minds and stop complaining. Please help us to see the other side of things and always rejoice that you are with us and you are for us. We love you. In Jesus' Name, we pray, amen.

Next Steps

Pray that the Lord changes your heart and exercise your faith with these two steps:

- Do not complain. Philippians 2:14. Small things become big things when you focus on them.
- Choose to rejoice no matter what. Philippians 2:17-18

Leader Tip

This topic is very important. It is familiar to everyone, and many people will probably have examples to share. Be careful that the discussion may go astray. Do your best to focus on how God changed or can change somebody's mind.