



Quit the Drama

Quit Complaining

Week 2

2 of 5

April 10, 2016

Icebreaker: When are you most likely to complain?

Key Verse: *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, in which you shine like stars in the universe.*

Philippians 2:14-15

Do you know someone who complains all the time? How long did it take for a person to come to mind? Probably not very long because no one wants to be around such a person. Complainers are fault-finding instead of being grateful. Throughout the whole testimony of Scripture, complaining is never seen as good or helpful. Complaining is a selfish mindset that declares, *I'm not getting what I want and what I deserve*. Because this is done in the realm of God's sovereignty, what we are really saying is, *"God, You're not being good to me."*

Yet we also recognize that complaining is something we all do, which is why it makes a difference when we choose not to embrace a life filled with complaining. Paul compared those who do not complain to those who shine like stars in the middle of a crooked generation. The world is filled with people who complain, so we really shine bright when we don't join in the grumbling.

Remember the person who complains all the time? Since you aren't like that person, you will have greater influence among your peers, and you can use that influence to the glory of God. We cannot change how people react to us based on our beliefs, but we still must stick to our convictions.

THINK IT OVER >>>

Thinking back on Dwight's message, what stood out to you?

Which do you believe presents the best witness that you have been with Jesus, complaint or gratitude? Can you think of a time in the gospels when Jesus complained?

Dwight said we should ask ourselves the following questions:

- When you're around others who begin to complain, are you eager to join in?
- Do you frequently "vent"?
- Do others see you as a negative person or a positive person?
- Do you find yourself complaining about things that you are allowing?
- Are you more likely to say what's wrong or to get involved in a solution?
- Do you complain more you compliment?

LOOK IT OVER >>>

What do you have to be grateful for? How is complaining ultimately a proclamation that you aren't grateful?

Is it ever helpful to complain? If so, when? What would be more helpful and productive than complaining when you notice a problem?

Do you have children or any influence over younger believers? What example does complaining set for them?

How did the Lord respond to those who constantly "grumbled" in the Old Testament? Though we are covered and forgiven in Jesus Christ, what should this tell us about the seriousness with which God takes grumbling?

NEXT STEPS

This week, consider taking some next steps together, as a group:

1. Praise God that Jesus willingly accepted all that the Father planned for Him as well as the unjust treatment of those who killed Him without ever complaining. Pray that the attitude of Christ Jesus would be your own as you embrace what it means to live a drama-free life without complaints.
2. Hold each other accountable to stop being judgmental, focus on what is going well in your life, and make a list of things you are grateful for. When you feel the desire to complain this week, think back on everything you are thankful for.

EVALUATION/ACTION

Choose gratitude instead of complaining.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

FURTHER STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out these verses:

- Exodus 16:8
- Psalm 106:24-26
- 1 Corinthians 10:10
- Numbers 14:2-3
- Number 14:27-29

Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.
(Don't forget to bring this paper to the next small group meeting)