



## Grumbling

Stand Alone | November 19th, 2023  
Community Group Discussion Guide

*The following is a guide to help structure your time as a group together. Community Groups exist first and foremost to help us know and follow Jesus together.*

*Our groups organize their shared life together around four essential practices - Studying the Scriptures, Care and Prayer, Family Hangouts, and Missional Hospitality. Our hope is that our presence together, as a people of practice and patience will aid in our spiritual formation over time.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Lessons & Carols Christmas Service**

*Friday, December 22 | 6pm-7pm*

*Matthews Community Playhouse*

On Friday, December 22nd, we will be gathering at the Matthews Playhouse with other local churches across our city to celebrate the birth of King Jesus together. This will be a traditional Lessons & Carols service, where we will sing traditional Christmas worship songs, hear the story of the birth of Jesus read through various passages of Scripture, and take intentional time to reflect on the meaning of this season.

Childcare will be provided for ages 6 weeks - 2 years old. The service will be family-friendly, and should last about 45 minutes.

This is a small part of a citywide collaboration of like-minded churches in the Harbor Network, seeking to partner together to launch, lead, and multiply thriving churches.

## REVIEW THE MISSION

Take some time to review who various people are building relationships with and seeking to share the gospel with. **Pray for these individuals - that God would open their eyes to the good news of the gospel.**

## PRAYER + SCRIPTURE

**Open with a brief word of prayer:** “God, we thank you for this time together. We open our hearts to how you might want to meet with us. Come Holy Spirit.”

**1-2 minutes of silent reflection.**

### **1 Cor 10:1-14**

*10 For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. 6 Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.” 8 We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, 10 nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. 11 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. 12 Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

**1-2 minutes of silent reflection.**

**Close with this short prayer:** “Spirit, we pray for your discernment. Help us see our hearts rightly, when we grumble, and how we do not trust God. We pray that the grace of Jesus Christ would draw us to love and trust God’s provision for our lives, and that we would not be wooed by the sin of grumbling. Amen.”

**As you reflect on 1 Cor 10:1-14, what is the Holy Spirit showing or teaching you?**

## SERMON DISCUSSION

### THE PATTERN OF GRUMBLING

Grumbling was defined in this sermon as:

- Complaining, murmuring or “A general posture of smoldering discontentment.”
- What comes out of our hearts and our mouths when we think – “life should be something else or something more.”

Paul is revealing to the Corinthians that there is a pattern of grumbling seen through the Israelites, in Corinth, and even in us today.

God was good and kind to His people  
His people forgot God's goodness and kindness  
His people grumble and complain

**How do you see grumbling in your thoughts, speech, or prayers?**

### THE SIN OF GRUMBLING

Throughout the story of the Israelites we see:

- Grumbling is an affront to God's kindness and character.
- Grumbling leads to idolatry.
- Grumbling is corrosive to life with God.

**Which of these statements brings you the most conviction? How have you seen grumbling lead to one of these in your life?**

### A WAY OF ESCAPE

*Read 1 Corinthians 10:13*

God has given us a way to escape temptation. Two of these ways are through lament and gratitude.

**How can you turn your grumbling (hope-less complaining) into gratitude (hope-filled prayers) this week?**

**How can you intentionally practice gratitude this week?**

- *Consider the options given on Sunday:*
  - *Cues (small moments that remind you to be grateful)*
  - *Rhythms (regular practices of gratitude)*
  - *Feasts (meals dedicated to gratitude for God's provision)*

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pray over what was shared in the discussion, for your group to be united in the gospel, and for help from the Holy Spirit to be shaped to be more like Jesus as we put God's ways into practice.