

Name: _____

Date: _____

THE PEOPLE'S COMPLAINT & MOSES' PRAYER

“Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” (Philippians 2:14–15)

Objectives

Knowledge of God's Will	Because they rebelled against the Lord, the Israelites were denied entry to the promised land. Moses' prayer of intercession saved them from destruction.
Knowledge of God	God is a God of justice who will severely punish those who rebel against Him and reward those who trust in His words.
Good Works	Learn to live a life without complaint. Avoid negatively affecting the church, and instead glorify God with our words.

A. The Israelites Complain to God

- The reasons for their complaints*
 - Negative influences:* The “intense craving” of the mixed multitude impacted the people of Israel negatively and to devastating effect. We need to be mindful of our attitudes and alert to negativity from others.
 - They yielded to their desires:* They allowed their desires to control them entirely, so much so that they forgot about what God had already given them.
 - Their nostalgia blinded them:* They desired food that came with bondage and suffering, conveniently forgetting how they had cried out to God while in Egypt. At the same time, they rejected the miraculous providence of manna that came with God's freedom.
- The consequences of their complaints:* The level of complaint and rebellion against God was incredibly severe, and those who were guilty suffered terrible consequences. These events remind us that when we complain against God, we are not only showing a lack of gratitude, but are also despising God.

B. The Israelites Rebel Against the Lord

- The ten spies' report:* The spies recalled only the dangers that they saw and forgot how bountiful and fruitful the land was. More importantly, they forgot God's power.
- Joshua and Caleb's report:* Caleb's confidence lay in his belief in God's power. He and Joshua also understood that to reject this gift from God was to commit a sin worthy of punishment, showing their clear understanding of God's just and merciful power.

C. Moses' Prayer of Intercession

- Moses appeals on behalf of God's glory (vv. 13–16):* Moses' primary concern was not himself nor the Israelites, but God's glory.
- Moses appeals to God's mercy (vv. 17–19):* Moses humbly asked the Lord to show His great power not through punishment, but through His longsuffering and forgiveness.

Life Application

- How Can We Live a Life Without Complaining?*
- How Can We Glorify God with Our Words?*

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Lesson 4 Homework Assignment

The People’s Complaint & Moses’ Prayer

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Philippians 2:14–15):

1. Why does doing things without complaint or dispute make us blameless and harmless?
2. “Now _____ with _____ is great _____. For we brought _____ into this _____, and it is certain we can carry _____ out.” (1 Timothy 6:6–7)
3. “Let no _____ word proceed out of your _____, but what is good for necessary _____, that it may impart _____ to the _____.” (Ephesians 4:29)
4. Why is complaining against God such a serious sin?
5. Why was Joshua and Caleb’s report so different from the other spies’ report?
6. Why is it important to learn not to complain in our lives?
7. (Activity) Find a jar or container and choose something easy to fill it with. The chosen item must be easily color-coded (for example: craft beads, paper stars, or rolled up scraps of colored paper). Choose two colors. Each time you say something that negatively influences others, add the first color. Each time you say something that glorifies God, add the second color. At the end of the week, which color is more dominant in your container? Take a picture and show it to your teacher next week!