

SERIOUSLY, GOD?

You're in My Way

Focal Point

There are times when God seems uncooperative; he is in our way or not doing what we want him to do. When that happens, we start grumbling and complaining as the religious leaders did with Jesus—as the Jewish people did in the desert. Grumbling and complaining take us away from the blessings of God. In this message, we will look at the older brother in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He sees the father as standing in the way of life rather than seeing all the blessings the father offered him.

Video

As a group, watch the "Chapter 4: Seriously, You're in My Way" Companion Video. [Click Here.](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Share about one experience when you thought you had the right plan in place but still experienced obstacles to achieving your goal(s). Were you aware of God in that experience? If so, what did you think God was doing? Looking back, do you see anything differently now?
2. With which character(s) do you most resonate in the Bible stories retold in this chapter? Why do you think this is so? Are you happy with being like this character? If not, what can you do to change?
3. In the last paragraph on page 83, the authors write, "But there are no times in scripture when Jesus teaches, 'And when you pray, say, 'Heavenly Father, make my life easy and comfortable.'" What does this mean for how you approach your life, your dreams, your goals, and your priorities?
4. When you are frustrated by obstacles to achieving something, are you more inclined to get angry and rail against God or to complain to God? How do you think you arrived at that kind of response? Do you want to change it? How might you?
5. What is one favorite takeaway from this chapter for you? Why is it compelling, or how has it helped you grow spiritually?

Application

When we feel that God is in our way or not cooperating, it is counterproductive to grumble and complain because we miss out on the blessing God has for us. Rather than grumbling and complaining, identify where you think God is holding out on you. Then, open yourself up to his grace. When we turn to him, all that he has is ours.

