

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 7-13, 2023

“ENVY: THE SIN WE DIDN’T KNOW WE HAD”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

How do you think social media affects our perceptions of others and our own self-image

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read 1 Samuel 18:6-16

1. How do you think David felt after his victory over Goliath and the subsequent reaction of the people of Israel? Have you ever been praised for something you’ve accomplished? How would you have handled or reacted to it?
2. In what ways can you relate to the characters in this passage? Have you ever experienced envy or mistreatment from others? How did you respond?
3. What factors do you think fueled Saul's jealousy and envy toward David? How does our study illustrate the consequences of jealousy, envy and pride in relationships?
4. What characteristics and consequences of envy and jealousy from Saul stood out to you the most? How have you experienced them before? Can you think of any practical ways for recognizing and addressing feelings of envy or jealousy when they arise, rather than letting them fester and cause harm?
5. What qualities do you admire most about David, based on this passage? Have you ever been in a situation where someone in a position of power or authority has mistreated you unfairly? How did you respond?
6. How do you think the story of David and Saul serve as a caution and warning for leaders and individuals in positions of power today? What practical ways can a leader work to appreciate and celebrate the unique qualities and strengths of others?

7. (Optional) How do you think Jonathan felt about his father's mistreatment of David? What actions did he take to show his loyalty to David? What lessons can learn from this passage about true friendship and dealing with jealousy? (See 1 Samuel 18:1-6; 20:1-16).

8. NEXT STEPS

When we envy, our struggle is not with the person we envy. Our real struggle is really with God.

- ☐ I will take time each day to thank God for his gifts and remind myself how good God has been.
- ☐ I will cultivate a heart of gratitude.
- ☐ I will rejoice and celebrate with those who have been blessed by God.
- ☐ I will find my contentment and significance in God alone.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for help in the fight against the giant of envy.
- Pray for a heart that practices gratitude and celebrates the blessings in others.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

May 8 Proverbs 14
May 9 1 Kings 21:1-16
May 10 1 Samuel 18:6-16
May 11 Matthew 20:1-16
May 12 1 Samuel 22
May 13 1 Samuel 23
May 14 Acts 24:41-47