



Week 5 — Envy

LifeGroup Questions

ICEBREAKER:

If you could finally get the “one big break” you think you deserve...What would it be?

ENVY: Resenting God’s goodness in other’s lives while ignoring His goodness in your own life.

Objective: To stop resenting God’s goodness in others lives and start recognizing all of God’s goodness in our own lives.

- Do you feel like you are getting everything you deserve, or is God holding out on you?

Read:

...For He [your heavenly father] gives his sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too. Matthew 5:45 (NLT)

- “He sends rain on the just and on the unjust, too.”...Does this seem fair to you? Why or Why not?
- Do you tend to be more concerned with “things that are unfair” when you are personally involved? Why or Why not?

Read:

But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. James 3:14-16 (NIV)

- What “evil practices” have you seen result from “ignoring God’s goodness in your own life?”
- How does envy destroy your relationships at home? At work? In your Life-Group?

A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. Proverbs 14:30 (NIV)

- How will celebrating God’s goodness in other’s lives and recognizing it in your own give you a “heart at peace?”
- How will freedom from any envy that is holding you “Hostage” change your relationship with Christ?

Pray and in your own words ask God:

- What is it that I need to “celebrate” in others lives?
- What have I been ignoring in my own life that I need to “celebrate?”

For Further Study

1 Samuel 18:1-30 How would you describe your feelings about someone you know for whom everything seems to go right? How does this passage describe the bond between David and Jonathan? (18:1) How did the officers and people of Israel respond to David’s successes and promotions? (18:5) How did Saul feel about David’s popularity? (18:8-9) What was Saul’s reaction to David’s successes? (18:15) Why did Saul bestow honors on David even though he resented him? Why was Saul afraid of David even though Saul was king? What concrete step could you take to counteract envy the next time you find yourself envious of someone near you who is prospering?

Luke 9:46-50 What does greatness mean to you? How did an argument start among the disciples? (9:46) What did Jesus use to reply to the disciples’ ambition? (9:47) What different ambitions and motivations can we see in churches and other religious organizations today? What kind of teamwork might Jesus be looking for today among His followers? What is one step you can take to subject your ambitions to the ambitions of Jesus?