

Deadly Sins

AN ALL TO HIM SERMON SERIES

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 2: ENVY

SERIES OVERVIEW

Sin doesn't just make you bad- it leaves you dead. These seven sins are subtle, seductive, and deadly, and the enemy uses them to rob you of the life God intends. In this series, we're going to call these sins what they are, drag them into the light and learn how to kill them by the power of the Holy Spirit.

CONTEXT

James 3:13-18 contrasts the wisdom that comes from heaven with earthly wisdom, highlighting that envy and selfish ambition lead to disorder and every evil practice. In contrast, wisdom from above is pure, peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial, and sincere.

THE BIG IDEA

Stop comparing and start thanking. God has given you everything you need to do what he's called you to do.

ICE BREAKER

Have some fun with this. What is something that whenever someone else has it or gets it you say things like, "It must be nice". It could be a relationship, house, car, job, notoriety, etc.

SCRIPTURE: James 3:14-18

14 But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15 This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16 For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18 And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

GROUP DISCUSSION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

Read 3:14-15. How would you describe "bitter jealousy" and "selfish ambition"? What's the significance of James writing "in your hearts" instead of in your mind/thoughts?

In the sermon we learned that comparison leads to jealousy and left unchecked leads to envy. Share a time in your life when this progression played out. What was the result and how did you move past your envy?

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Discussion continued: How is verse 16 and the story of Cain and Abel (Genesis 4) similar? Would you agree or disagree that most murders in the Bible come from envy including Jesus on the cross? Explain your answer.

Quote from sermon: "Once you are discontent with who you are, you will resent others out of your own insecurity." According to the sermon and verse 16, how does your lack of contentment lead to envy? Share an example from your own life.

From the sermon: Envy begins to convince you that you have nothing to be grateful for because everyone and everything is against you. Discuss how our lack of gratitude and/or being grateful impacts your level of envy. Share an example.

Quote from sermon: "There is nothing so blinding as envy or grievance. This was the nerve the serpent touched in Eden, to make even paradise appear an insult." Discuss this quote from Derek Kinder. How does envy impact our relationship with God? Why is it important to have a person in your life to show you your blind spots like envy?

Read verses 17-18. What do these verses tell us we need to do to live a life free of envy? According to 1 Corinthians 1:23-24, who is the wisdom from above?

Pastor Jacob challenged us to **1. Find our Contentment in Christ** and **2. Grow in gratitude daily** in order to fight against envy. Share which one of these is the hardest for you and which one you're committing to put into practice.

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Confess area(s) in your life where envy is present and pray for God to kill it.

Closing Prayer(come back together as a group)
God, thank you that your grace is sufficient. We humbly confess that we need you and each other to see envy in our own lives. May we live a life of gratitude and find our identity and contentment in You in order to put it to death. God, we are so grateful that as we draw near to you, you draw near to us. We pray that our ONES will experience your pursuit of them and respond with giving their all to You. In Jesus name, Amen.
