

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What are some things that make people jealous? What makes you feel jealous? Read *1 Samuel 18:1-16*.
- Read James 3:14-16. Where does jealousy/envy or selfish ambition come from? What kind of misery or trouble can it cause a person? Think of someone you know who struggles with jealousy. What kind of trouble does this create for them?
- Read Matthew 20:1-16. What do you feel when you read this story? Does it seem unjust? How did those hired first feel about getting the same wage as those who only worked an hour? What was wrong with their perspective? What was the point of Jesus' story? How does this story illustrate the goodness of God? How did comparison play a role in the jealous laborers' attitude? What kept them from being content and rejoicing in God's goodness to the late laborers?
- In what ways does being jealous make you miserable? What "but" do you need to remove? (I'm thankful for my house, but . . .). Share how God has taught you to be content and grateful for who you are and what you have.
- To whom do you most often compare yourself? How do you feel when you compare yourself to someone who has more? Less? Are you more tempted to be jealous of what others have, what they can do, or how they look?
- Are you more likely to rejoice when others prosper or feel jealous? Share a time when you felt jealous of someone's blessing or good fortune? What were some of your thoughts? What lies were you believing? What would it look like for you to celebrate God's goodness to this person?

Next Steps: In what areas do you need to confront and deal with jealousy? Make a list of God's eternal blessings. Develop the habit of setting your mind on these things whenever you struggle with being discontent or jealous. Who do you need to celebrate with? Practice being more empathetic this week and rejoice in the blessings of others. Make a gratitude list, adding at least three new things to it each day for the next 10 days. Acknowledge God's goodness in big and small things.

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



1 Samuel 18:1-16 NIV page 196

³⁰*A heart at peace gives life to the body, but jealousy will rot your bones.*
Proverbs 14:30 NIV, NCV

⇒ God's Goodness Crushed by Jealousy

¹⁶*So wherever jealousy and selfishness are uncovered, you will also find many troubles and every kind of meanness.*
James 3:16 TPT

➤ Jonathan celebrates David. (1-4)

²¹*So David went to Saul and began serving him. Saul loved David very much, and David became his armor bearer.*
1 Samuel 16:21 NLT

➤ Saul fears David. (5-11)

⁸*...Before you know it they'll be giving him the kingdom!"* ⁹*From that moment on, Saul kept his eye on David.*
1 Samuel 18:8-9 MSG

➤ Saul was consumed with jealousy. (12-16)

¹⁵*As Saul saw David becoming more successful, he himself grew more fearful. He could see the handwriting on the wall.* ¹⁶*But everyone else in Israel and Judah loved David. They loved watching him in action.*
1 Samuel 18:15-16 MSG

⇒ It kills relationships.

Cain & Abel - Genesis 4:5; Rachel & Leah - Genesis 30:1
Leah & Rachel - Genesis 30:15; Joseph & brothers - Genesis 37:5
Saul & David - 1 Samuel 18:7-9; Chief priests & Jesus - Mark 15:10

⇒ It sours life.

¹⁰...He got his friends together with his wife Zeresh ¹¹and started bragging about how much money he had, his many sons, all the times the king had honored him, and his promotion to the highest position in the government. ¹²“On top of all that,” Haman continued, “Queen Esther invited me to a private dinner she gave for the king, just the three of us. And she’s invited me to another one tomorrow. ¹³But I can’t enjoy any of it...” Esther 5:10–13 MSG

¹Rachel saw that she was not giving Jacob any children. She became jealous of her sister Leah. So Rachel said to Jacob, “Give me children, or I will die!” ²Jacob became angry with Rachel and said, “I am not God. He is the one who has caused you to not have children.” Genesis 30:1–2 ERV

⇒ It drains fulfillment.

1 Samuel 18:8–9 NIV

⁴Let everyone be sure to do his very best, for then he will have the personal satisfaction of work done well and won’t need to compare himself with someone else. Galatians 6:4 TLB

Don’t be jealous of other people’s blessings.

You don’t know the road it took them to get there.

⇒ It changes good news into bad news.

¹⁴Do everything without grumbling or arguing, live a cheerful life, without complaining or division among yourselves. ¹⁵Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night. Philippians 2:15 NIV, TPT, MSG

¹⁸There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love. 1 John 4:18 MSG

⇒ God’s Goodness Crushes Jealousy

➤ Celebrate God’s goodness to others.

¹⁵If some have cause to celebrate, join in the celebration... Romans 12:15 Voice

¹⁷He said, Don’t despair. My father, Saul, can’t lay a hand on you. You will be Israel’s king and I’ll be right at your side to help... 1 Samuel 23:17 MSG

➤ Embrace God’s goodness to others.

¹³You formed my innermost being, shaping my delicate inside and my intricate outside, and wove them all together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴I thank you, God, for making me so mysteriously complex! Everything you do is marvelously breathtaking. It simply amazes me to think about it! How thoroughly you know me, Lord! Psalm 139:13–14 TPT

¹³Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. Philippians 4:13 MSG

Anytime you feel jealous,
you are denying your uniqueness,
which is a criticism of God’s plan for you.

⁹It’s better to enjoy what we have than to always want something else, because that makes no more sense than chasing the wind. Ecclesiastes 6:9 CEV

Bottom Line:

Jealousy resents God’s goodness to others
while ignoring God’s goodness in your life.

Resources for this message include messages by North Coast Community Church, Alistair Begg, Ray Fowler, and Summit Church.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the Think It Over section on the back.