

Small Group Discussion Questions



// Week of April 21, 2024

LEADER INFO

- Baptism! Text "Dunk" to 604-670-3040 to sign up for our May 19th Baptism

GROW This section is based on the sermon from Sunday. You can find it here: <https://www.southsidelife.com/>

ICE BREAKER What is one highlight from your week? One lowlight?

Beating Envy

"Why does my life suck compared to theirs?"

Read

Proverbs 14:30

A heart at peace gives life to the body,
but envy rots the bones.

Joseph Epstein

"Of the Seven Deadly Sins, only envy is no fun at all. Sloth may not seem that enjoyable, nor anger either, but giving way to deep laziness has its pleasures, and the expression of anger entails a release that is not without its small delights.

In recompense, envy may be the subtlest--perhaps I should say the most insidious--of the seven deadly sins. Surely it is the one that people are least likely to want to own up to, for to do so is to admit that one is probably ungenerous, mean, small-hearted. It may also be the most endemic.....we have all felt flashes of envy, even if in varying intensities, from its minor pricks to its deep, soul-destroying, lacerating stabs.

Envy clouds thought, clobbers generosity, precludes any hope of serenity, and ends in shriveling the heart.”

1. Envy was at the very beginning

- a. The Bible (Revelation 12 and Isaiah 14) tells us that Lucifer (Satan, our spiritual enemy) envied God’s position and praise, so he recruited 1/3 of the angels to rebel against God. Because of this, he and his followers were cast out of heaven.
 - i. We were made in God’s image. In light of Satan’s history with God, why do you think he seeks to destroy us?

**He hates us because we are children of God and he hates our family resemblance. Hurting us and leading us astray is his one way to hurt God.*

- ii. Read Genesis 3:1-13 and discuss the role envy played in the fall of mankind - with Adam and Eve, the two first people on Earth.
 - iii. Read Genesis 4:1-8 and discuss the role envy played in the first murder on Earth - with Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve’s sons.
- b. Knowing is an ancient tactic of the enemy, how does it frame how you look at it for yourself and your life?
- c. Satan’s plan for your life is for you to be broken, and for you to leave a trail of broken people behind you. Discuss.

2. Envy follows a pattern

- a. Envy begins with wanting something you don’t have. For example:
 - i. I want to look like them
 - ii. I want to have what they have

- iii. I want to have their money/experiences/relationship
 - iv. I want to be successful like them
 - 1. When was the last time you can remember envying someone?
- b. As it continues, envy encourages you to resent other people when they succeed.
- 1. We've all done that. When was the last time you felt that way?
- c. The endgame of the envy tactic is for us to be happy when others fail OR even to orchestrate events to ENSURE they fail.
- 1. Take a moment to reflect. Discuss your experience with this.

3. The Weight of Worship

- a. Consider this quote from Soren Kierkegaard:

“Follow the smoke trail of your envies down to the fires you’ve built at your altars of worship...”

- i. What do you find yourself envying the most? For example:
 - 1. Do you envy people who have a lot of money? What you subconsciously think will bring you hope is more money.
 - 2. Do you envy good looks? What you subconsciously think will bring you hope is good looks.
 - 3. Do you envy people’s success? What you subconsciously think will bring you hope is success.
 - 4. Athleticism, romantic lives, travel, possessions, kids, work, friendships...
- ii. How does what you envy inform what you’re tempted to worship/place more hope in, over God?
- iii. Those things can’t hold up under the weight of your worship - only God can. Those things can’t love you back purely and unconditionally, but God can.
 - 1. Discuss.

3. Envy is a Thief

- a. Envy is a thief of gratitude. Do ever you find yourself feeling sorry for yourself?
 - i. Discuss how envy might be stealing gratitude from you.
- b. Envy is a thief of the moment. Do you ever find yourself thinking “Someone is enjoying this moment in time more than I am.”?
 - i. Discuss how envy might be stealing your moments from you.
- c. Envy is a thief of love. Do you ever find yourself thinking “God, you failed me! Look at what they have that I don’t”
 - i. Let’s be honest and real, and discuss what we might be upset with God about.

- d. Now read Philippians 4:10-13
 - i. How can this group pray for you, in order for you to be able to say “Jesus is enough for me” tomorrow?
- e. Now **Pray**
 - i. Pray against the ancient tricks of envy that every one of us faces, in Jesus’ name.