



## Love does not envy

1 Corinthians 13:4

### Breaking the Ice:

What is something that you really wanted as a child but never got?

### For Reflection:

*Love does not envy, which means that love is content with its lot. We all know that life is filled with inequality. Some men are rich, and I hear Christians ask, "Why did God bless that man with so much wealth and not give me some?" Love recognizes that there are inequalities, and love is satisfied with its lot. Remember that the very first murder, when Cain slew Abel, was prompted by envy—J. Vernon McGee*

**Definition:** *envy* (covered in intro video)

**Envy** (zeloo) be jealous; rival; envy

set ones heart on; have deep concern for; be jealous

**Envy**[en-vee]

- 1 painful or resentful awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another joined with a desire to possess the same advantage
- 2 an object of envious notice or feeling (his new car made him the envy of his friends)

## Exploration:

To envy means we set our heart and attention on something that we lack, that someone else has. We feel slighted, inadequate and angry. In every relationship there is a hint of the unfair. Love lives with this unfairness and surrenders the right to seek a righting of the inequity. We must put relationship before fairness. - JPW

1. Envy is sometimes a “hidden sin.” Why do we tend to keep it under wraps when we feel envious or jealous?
2. How does envy poison relationships? How does forgiveness and acceptance enhance relationships?
3. If we need to take the focus off of what others have or do, what are some spiritually enriching things we can put our focus on?

### Envy / Jealousy

It's no fun to feel envy or jealousy because both make you feel inadequate. Envy is when you want what someone else has, but jealousy is when you're worried someone trying to take what you have. If you want your neighbor's new convertible, you feel envy. If she takes your husband for a ride, you feel jealousy.

## Response:

Is there a person or circumstance that is the obsessive focus of your attention? If so, pray for God to bless them and make you happy about the blessing.

## Bottom Line:

Be on guard for indicators of envy or jealousy in your heart!