

Alley SG - October 20-21, 2018

Bible Story: Sour Grapes (King Ahab and Naboth's Vineyard) • 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27

Bottom Line: Wanting what others have can make you miserable.

Key Question: What can you do when all you can think about is what someone else has?

Memory Verse: “Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15 NIV)

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Green card (12 per bin), white card (12 per bin) *Reuse each service.*

What You Do:

- **Ask** students to define jealousy. How are jealousy and envy different or the same?

Tip: *Jealousy almost always involves relationships—we become jealous of the attention someone is giving to others instead of us. Envy focuses more on things—a desire for something someone else has. Both can poison our relationships with others and weaken our relationships with God.*

- **Give** each student one green card and one white card.
- **Explain** that you will describe a situation.
 - If they think there is envy or jealousy going on, have them hold up their green cards.
 - If they think it's neither, have them hold up their white cards.
- **Read** the following statements:
 - Your friend gets a new pair of shoes, and you would like a pair just like them.
 - Your brother or sister gets a gift for Christmas that you think is better than yours. You keep wondering, “Why didn't I get a better gift?”
 - Your best friend decided to sit with someone else at lunch and you're mad.
 - Someone takes your place in the starting lineup of the basketball team. You decide to work harder and get your place back.
 - You dislike someone because he or she is a better student than you.
 - You see your friends at the mall, and they didn't invite you. You feel like going up to them and telling them how mad you are.
 - You and your friend are both running for Captain of the Book Club. Your friend gets elected. You are disappointed about it, but you realize there is always next year.
 - If there's extra time, **let** the students describe their own “green” and “white” scenarios.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, “Who, What, Where, When, and Why” Activity Pages (one per pair of students), pens

What You Do:

- **Give** each person a Bible.
- **Review** the story of Naboth’s Vineyard from 1 Kings 21:1-19, 27 by letting students take turns reading a verse or two at a time.
- **Form** groups of two or three students and spread out as much as possible.
- **Give** each group a “Who, What, Where, When, and Why” Activity Page and a pen.
- **Instruct** groups to come up with a creative question pertaining to the story of Naboth and Ahab for each category on their paper: “Who, What, Where, When, and Why.”
- **Explain** that they will be trading pages with another team.
- When each group finished writing, **bring** the teams together.
- **Ask** groups to exchange “Who, What, Where, When, and Why” pages and rotate around the groups by letting them read and answer the first question.
- **Continue** in the same way with the remaining questions.
- **Discuss:**
 - Who do you think was the most to blame for Naboth’s death, Ahab, Jezebel, or the people who stoned him? Explain your answer.
 - What did you learn about jealousy and envy from the story of Ahab and Naboth?
 - Envy is always destructive. What does it destroy?
 - What are some ways God helps us control or overcome these feelings and give us contentment?

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- How should we think about the stuff we have in a way that helps us deal with envy?
- Share your thoughts on the following statements:
 - Comparison is the thief of joy.
 - You can’t love others when all you feel is jealousy.
 - God has given us what we have for a reason.
- Is it ever okay to want what someone else has? If so, when is it okay? If not, why?
- What would you say is the best part about learning to be content?
- What can you do to be happy for someone else when he or she has something you want?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, narrow craft sticks (one per student), individually wrapped candy (approx. 5 per student) cell phone timer

What You Do:

- **Remind** students that the secret to contentment is focusing on God; it's about trusting that His plans are right and good, even if they are different than we would like. It's impossible to be content if we're focusing on what we don't have or what others have that we want.
- **Challenge** the students with a game in which they must use their skills of focus.
- **Give** each student a craft stick.
- **Set** the individually wrapped candy within reach of all the students.
- **Explain** that they will have 30 seconds to stack the candy onto the end of the stick—one on top of the other. (*adjust time if needed*)
 - As incentive, tell them they can keep all the candy they can balance on the end of their craft sticks.
- **Set** the timer and let students begin.
- **Play** several rounds, giving students a chance to earn more pieces of candy if you choose.
- When finished, **comment** on how focused the students were during the game.
 - Point out how they set their minds to the task of balancing the candy and did everything they could to not let any fall.
- **Invite** someone to read aloud Colossians 3:2 then **ask** the group to share comparisons between how they *set their focus* during the game with the way God commands us to focus on what's most important in life. (*How is focusing on things above similar or different to the focus given in playing a game?*)
- **Ask:**
 - If your mind is set on things above—the things God says are important—what does that look like for someone your age?
 - If your mind is focusing on the things of earth, what are you most likely thinking about?
 - Why does focusing on God help you to be content?
 - What are some ways you can focus on God?
- **Close** by saying that one of the most important ways to focus on God is to know His Word.
 - The Bible is a powerful tool given to us by God.
 - It guides, encourages, commands, and helps us live in the wisest way possible.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Invite** students to think about how they would finish the following statements:
 - I get most jealous when . . .
 - I sometime get envious of . . .
- If anyone is willing to talk about his or her answer, **allow** that student to do so, but don't require it.
- **Invite** everyone to pray a "F.A. T." prayer.
 - **Forgive:** Talk to God about any wrong attitudes and actions.
 - **Ask:** Invite God's help in specific ways.
 - **Thank:** Tell God what you're grateful for, including HIM.
- **Give** students the option of praying silently or out loud, alone or with a friend.
- **Let them know** that God hears and knows the prayers of their hearts whether spoken or silent, but praying out loud helps others pray with them in specific ways.

What You Say:

"Dear Jesus, forgive us when we have an attitude of jealousy and envy. We ask for Your help to be more grateful for what we have and to not focus on what we wish we had. Thank You for giving us what we need when we need it. In Your name we pray, amen."

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH