

Love Does Not Envy
Next Steps Devotional Guide
Sermon Series: Are You A Good Neighbor?
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These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. Take time with each section. Spread this devotional guide out over days, even the next week so that you can really reflect, meditate, contemplate, and pray. Use your sermon outline's points, Scriptures and Bible to supplement this personal devotional guide:

1. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4c in your sermon notes. Do you agree that it is impossible to love someone and envy them at the same time? Explain.
2. Envy has two forms. First, I want what someone else has. The second one is more selfish. I desire evil for someone else. Take your Bible and read 1 Kings 3:16-27. What is the contrast here between these two people and what does that say to you about the evil of envy?
3. Read James 3:16, Ecclesiastes 4:4 and Proverbs 4:4 from your sermon notes. Envy is resenting God's goodness to others and ignoring God's goodness to myself. When have you done that? When are you most vulnerable to do this?
4. Read Matthew 20:1-12 in your sermon notes. Envy is like a cancer, an infection and God has antidotes for it. Read Matthew 20:10 again in point #1 under the heading, "*What Is The Antidote For Envy?*" Why do you think we compare ourselves to others?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 10:12 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, "*What Is The Antidote For Envy?*" Envy ignores the fact that you are unique. When you compare, you can commit two sins: pride and envy. Even TV shows such as "The Price Is Right" and "Let's Make A Deal" add to our envy because we desire what they win. The truth is — we compare ourselves to others and what they have that we do not have. Yet, we do not always know the whole story of how that person has sacrificed and worked hard to get what we envy. Do you think knowing the full story helps us combat envy? Why or why not?
6. Read Matthew 20:10-15 again from your sermon notes in point #2 under the heading, "*What Is The Antidote For Envy?*"
 - a. Do you remember the story Snow White? The wicked, but beautiful queen would approach her magic mirror and ask, "*Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?*" Each time the mirror said the queen was until one day it said, "*Snow White.*" Immediately the evil queen tries to kill Snow White by giving her a poison apple. The peasant girl Snow White has nothing in comparison to the wealth and power of this queen. Yet, this wicked queen gets envious of Snow White. Why and what does this tell you about the evil of envy?
 - b. Read Romans 12:15 in point #2 in your sermon notes. The fact is envy comes most often in the area that you're most interested and where you're most likely to be talented. Athletes envy athletes. Doctors envy doctors. Authors envy other authors. Envy can be a very hidden sin and that is why it is so harmful. Do you rejoice in the success of others, especially those in the same career as you or who have the same talents as you? Why or why not?
 - c. For some people, it is hard to rejoice in the successes of others. In some way, envy is wishing bad on others. The main thing envy does is keep you from entering into the joy of other people. When and where have you see this and/or experienced it yourself? What did you learn from this?
 - d. One of the reason biblical small groups are important is that they help us with envy, When a sorrow is shared in a small group, it is cut in half. When a joy is share in a small group, it's doubled. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
7. Because envy is a hidden sin, we usually do not think it is that bad. We do not equate the sin of envy on the same level as with the sin of murder or lust for example. Yet, it is the evillest sin of all because it wishes bad on other people because they have what you do not have. Take your Bible and read Genesis 4:1-12. Envy kills — sometimes literally. It keeps you from entering the joy of other people and their successes. What joys do you believe you have not experienced because of envy?

8. Read Philippians 4:11, James 1:17 and 1 Corinthians 4:7-8 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"*
 - a. Every skill, every talent, every ability, your health, your intelligence, your career, your job, the house or apt. you live in, the money you have and etc., all of these are God's blessings to you. How consistent are you to thank God on a daily basis for all His blessings and grace to you? How would this help in combating envy? Explain.
 - b. Envy is based on a myth. The myth is, *"I have to have more to be happy. I have to have something I don't have now to be happy."* Envy always looks at others and asks, *"Why them? Why did they deserve it? I deserve what they have."* But gratitude says, *"Why me? Why did I get this? I don't deserve from God what I already have."* What actual steps can you do to apply this to your own life to combat envy?
9. Envy is not having a desire or a goal or a dream. Envy is resenting what someone else already has. Envy says, *"I cannot be happy until I get what they have or what I want."*
 - a. Take your Bible and read Revelation 12:1-17 and Isaiah 14:12-15. These passages reveal the envy satan or the devil had in the beginning and how God dealt with him. What does this say to you about how God feels about envy and how He deals with it?
 - b. Have you ever resented someone simply because they had something you wanted? Explain.
10. Read Matthew 20:12, 14b-15 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"*
 - a. Where and when would you say life has been unfair to you?
 - b. Envy is more than thinking life has been unfair to us. Envy puts us in a battle with and against God. We think God has been unfair to us. Has there ever been a time in your life you felt God was being unfair to you? Explain. How did you deal with it? Do you still feel that way? Why or why not?
 - c. Read Exodus 20:17 in point #4 in your sermon notes. Envy is such a horrible sin that God put a commandment against it in the Ten Commandments. It is up there along with murder, stealing and adultery. What does this tell you about taking seriously to prohibit the sin of envy in your life?
11. Read Matthew 20:14a from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"* Jesus' point from this verse is, *"Quit having a pity party due to envy. Get a life! It's time to go to the next step in your life."* If you were to do this, what do you think that next step would be for you?
12. Read Hebrews 12:1 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"* What do you need to "strip off" according to Hebrews 12:1 to go to that "particular race" God has set before you? And what "race" has God set before you to run?
13. Read Psalms 139:15 and James 4:2-3 from your sermon under point #5 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"* We ask for the wrong things with wrong motives because we do not understand that even before we were conceived, God had already scheduled every day of our life. What do you believe God has scheduled for you?
14. Read Matthew 20:16, 26 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"* Theologians call this "The Great Reversal." God is not going to judge and reward you for your accomplishments, your wealth, your talents, your beauty, your retirement accounts, your trophies and etc. He is going to judge you and reward you for serving others rather than envying them. If this were to happen right now to you, how do you envision this would play out for you?
15. Read Mark 10:45 from your sermon notes under point #5 under the heading, *"What Is The Antidote For Envy?"* Taking Class 101 — Membership; Class 201 — Maturity; Class 301 — Ministry; and Class 401 — Missions helps defeat envy and they help you discover what God has already mapped out for you to do with your life. Class 301 focuses on this entirely. We call it our S.H.A.P.E. Class. God has given you your own unique spiritual shape. If you have not taken this class, why? When would you be willing to take Class 301?