

Small Group Bible Study Questions: Envy the Green-Eyed Monster

Sept 28'25 Sermon (Vices & Virtues) by Brendan Dick

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.

Optional Icebreaker Question:

- **FOLLOW-UP from last week:** How did RESTRAINING ANGER go in the last week?
- *Where have you seen or experienced "the green-eyed monster" of envy—big or small?*

Scripture Reading

Read aloud **James 3:13-4:3** and **Proverbs 14:30**:

- Highlight the contrast between "wisdom from above" and "wisdom from below."

Discussing the Vice: Envy

1. Understanding Envy

- How would you describe envy in your own words?
- The sermon defined envy as not just wanting what someone else has, but *resenting* that they have it. Why is this distinction important?

2. Envy in Our Lives

- Where are you most tempted to compare yourself to others—possessions, relationships, abilities, looks, social media, etc.?
- Which of the "symptoms" mentioned (resentment, gossip, rivalry, false motives, belittling) do you notice in your own heart?

3. Envy's Impact

- James says envy leads to "disorder and every evil practice." How have you seen envy cause division—in families, workplaces, friendships, or churches?

Discussing the Virtue:

1. Understanding Charity

- The opposite of envy is **charity (love)**: selfless love that *rejoices in others' good* even when it costs you.

- How does this reflect 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 ("Love... does not envy... rejoices with the truth")?

2. Biblical Example

- Read briefly about Jonathan and David (1 Samuel 18:1-4). How did Jonathan demonstrate charity instead of envy?

3. Practicing Charity

- What daily habits might help you move from envy to charity (gratitude, prayer of blessing, meditation on your identity in Christ)?
- Share a practical step you could take this week to celebrate someone else's success or blessing.

Reflection & Identity

- Discuss: How does knowing you are fully loved and accepted by God free you from comparing yourself to others?

Application/Challenge (this week)

- When you feel envy rising, pause and pray a blessing over the person you're tempted to resent.
- Write down three things you're grateful for each day to cultivate a heart of peace.

Closing Prayer (5 min)

Invite group members to pray for one another—especially for freedom from envy and a heart of charity.