

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step

Read Matthew 20:1-15

The parable of the Workers in the Vineyard reveals the graciousness of God but it also reveals our tendency to envy. In this story the envy is even based on one groups of workers getting more than another group but that they received the same and yet had not worked nearly as long for it.

- If you were one of the first workers hired how would you have reacted to the landowner?
- What charge does the landowner levee against the first workers who were hired?
- Do you ever envy God’s blessing on others? Why?
- How does this story demonstrate the virtue of kindness?

Read Proverbs 14:30, James 3:16, 4:2, Titus 3:3, Psalm 37:8

These verse tell about the destructive results of envy. There are others words that are also used to convey a sense of envy. They are forms of covet and jealous.

- Some translations of Proverbs 14:30 say that envy rots the bone. What do you think the writer is trying to illustrate concerning envy?
- What are some of the things that we can envy? Which ones are you most to be tempted to envy?
- Below, jot down a list of the results of envy according to these scriptures?

Read Galatians 5:19-23, 6:4; Colossians 3:14 and Philippians 4:11-12

These verses remind us about steps that we can take in order to overcome envy.

- Are you prone to comparing yourself with others?
- Which of these areas are you most likely to compare:
 - looks
 - possessions
 - abilities
 - prestige
 - _____
- Rather than looking at the perceived shortcomings what are some things that you can do to focus on being thankful for who you are and what you have?
- Do you have someone in your life that you struggle being kind to because of envy?
- Are you open to learning contentment? Is God enough for you?

My Next Step Today Is To . . .

- Commit my life to God today asking Him to fill my life with peace and joy as I follow Him.
- Ask God for contentment in the area of _____
- Consistently live a life of kindness to everyone.
- Meditate on and/or memorize Philippians 4:11-12

Talk It Over with God:

These prayer tips can guide your time alone with God each day. Praying with a friend or a small group might help you stick to it.

- Ask God to reveal to you any areas of your life where you are trapped by the deadly sin of envy.
- Spend time counting your blessings and expressing to God your thankfulness for all that he has provided.
- Pray for someone whom you tend to envy. Ask God to help you to be kind to them.