



Helping Kids Overcome Envy God's Way

When Someone Else Gets What I Want

Lesson Aim

Kids will understand that envy hurts our hearts and relationships, but God invites us to rejoice when others are blessed—because His blessings never run out.

Scripture Focus

- “Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.” (Luke 15:29, *ESV*)
- “A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.” (Proverbs 14:30, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: “Have you ever said, “That’s not fair!” when someone else got what you wanted? How did it make you feel?”

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of The Older Brother in The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)

Jesus told a story about two brothers. The younger son had taken his share of the family money, left home, and wasted it all on bad choices. When he finally came back, he was hungry and ashamed, but the father ran to him with open arms. The father forgave him, gave him a robe, a ring, and sandals, and threw a big party to celebrate.

But the older brother wasn't happy. He was out in the field working hard when he heard music and dancing. When he found out the party was for his younger brother, he became angry and refused to join. He said to his father, “All these years I’ve served you. I never disobeyed. But you never gave me a party! Now my brother comes home after wasting everything, and you celebrate him?”



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The father answered gently: “My son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. But it was right to celebrate, because your brother was lost and now he is found.”

The father didn’t scold or shame his older son. He reminded him of what was already true: You have always been with me, and everything I have is already yours. The older brother’s envy had made him blind to his own blessings. Instead of feeling loved, he felt left out. Envy makes our hearts small and forgetful. But the father’s love was big enough for both sons. God’s love is the same way. It never runs out or runs short.

The older brother’s jealousy kept him from joining the celebration. He was so focused on what his brother got that he forgot he already had his father’s love and blessings.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. How did the older brother feel when his younger brother got a party?
2. Why do you think the father reminded him, “All that I have is yours”?
3. What can we do when we feel jealous, instead of staying angry?

- **Explain:**

- Envy and jealousy are like cousins—closely related but not the same.
- Jealousy says: “Don’t take my friend away.”; Envy says: I wish I had what they have.”
- The older brother envied the celebration for his sibling and forgot he already had his father’s love.
- The Bible warns us envy spills out into words and actions and often grows into selfish ambition.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a time when someone else got something you wanted and how it made you feel.
- **Student activity:** Invite students to act out or draw (Charades or Pictionary) short scenarios, like a sibling getting more dessert, a classmate winning a prize, or a friend is picked first for a game. After each scene, ask: “What could envy say? What could it look like to celebrate instead?”

Pray

- *“Dear God, thank You that Your blessings never run out. When we feel envy, help us remember that You love us and always have good things for us. Teach us to rejoice when others are blessed. Amen.”*

Craft/Activity

- **“Blessings Never Run Out” Cup:** Give each child a paper cup and strips of paper. On each strip, they write or draw one blessing from God. Place them in the cup until it overflows. Remind kids: God has so many blessings to give that they never run out!

Key Takeaway

- We can let envy go because God’s blessings never run out.