



## Helping Kids Overcome Envy God's Way

When Someone Else Gets What I Want

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Identify envy as a feeling that shows up when others get what we want.
- Understand that God's blessings never run out, even when others are celebrated.
- Practice choosing to rejoice instead of resenting when someone else is blessed.

### 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)

### Lesson Flow (25 min)

#### 1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: "Have you ever felt upset when someone else won, got picked first, or was praised? How did you react?"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

#### 2. Teach (7 min)

- **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 sons. The younger one demanded his share of the inheritance, wasted it all on bad choices, and later returned home ashamed. But when he came back, his father didn't scold him. He ran to him, hugged him, and threw a huge party to celebrate.

The older brother was angry when he found out. He had stayed home, worked hard, and obeyed, yet no celebration had ever been thrown for him. He refused to join the



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

The father wanted both sons to share his joy, but the older brother’s envy made him feel left out. He forgot that his father’s love had never changed. The party for his brother didn’t take away his blessings; it showed how big his father’s love really was. When we feel envy, we can remember the same truth: God’s love and blessings never run out.

- **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 envy, 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.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks understanding through student answers and engagement.

### 3. Model (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** a time when someone else got something you wanted.
- **Student activity:** Invite students to act out or draw envy short scenarios. After each scene, ask: “What could envy say? What could it look like to celebrate instead?”
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes engagement and ability to apply the lesson to real-life examples.

### 4. Pray (2-3 min)

- “God, thank You that Your blessings never run out. When we feel envy, remind us of Your love and help us rejoice when others are blessed.”
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

### 5. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** We can let envy go because God’s blessings never run out.
- **Student Reflection:** Share one way to celebrate someone else’s blessing this week.
- **Teacher closes:** Remind students that envy steals joy, but God gives enough love and goodness for everyone.
- **Assessment:** Teacher evaluates student reflections and engagement.

### Optional Extension: Independent Practice

- Students write or draw one blessing they already have from God and one way they can celebrate someone else’s blessing.