

# Where Is God When We Hurt?

## Session 9 ~ When the Green-Eyed Monster Attacks

William Shakespeare coined the phrase “the green-eyed monster” to describe the damaging effects of jealousy. English uses “jealousy” and “envy” interchangeably despite their different meanings. However, jealousy is the fear someone will take what’s ours; envy is a desire for what someone has. And covetousness is a desire to take what someone has, leaving them empty-handed.

Causes of jealousy, envy, and covetousness:

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Consequences of jealousy, envy, and covetousness:

- \_\_\_\_\_  
*Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy? (Proverbs 27:4)*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones. (Proverbs 14:30)*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. (James 4:2)*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)*

Jealousy, envy, and covetousness in the Bible lead to honor competitions:

- Cain and Abel (*Genesis 4:1-16*)

- Jacob and Esau (*Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45*)
- Rachel and Leah (*Genesis 29:15-35; 30:1-24*)
- Joseph and his brothers (*Genesis 37*)
- David and Saul (*1 Samuel 15—31*)
- Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 4:32—5:11*)

Cure for jealousy, envy, and covetousness:

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*Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness. (2 Timothy 2:19)*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. (Colossians 3:2)*
- \_\_\_\_\_  
*I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances... I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (Philippians 4:11, 13)*

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Describe a situation in which you have seen the damaging effects of jealousy, envy, or covetousness.
2. Why are jealousy, envy, and covetousness such dangerous emotions? How can they lead to idolatry?
3. When have you struggled with jealousy, envy, or covetousness? What strategies enabled you to overcome?
4. In what area is contentment hard for you? How can you increase your level of peace?