



Date: _____
Series: Pass the Promise
Summer Year 1, Lesson 8

Don't Give in to Jealousy, Give Your Best to God

Primary Scripture: Galations 5:26; 1 Thessalonians 5:11;
Genesis 4

Key Verse: Genesis 4:7b, "...sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to learn that jealousy can be dangerous. While it is okay to strive after goals and acquire possessions or recognition, it can be very harmful to be jealous of others who have what we don't. Jealousy becomes dangerous when we wish ill to other people because we want what they have. This was the sin behind Cain murdering his own brother, Abel. Instead, we need to be thankful for what we have and give our very best to God, as Abel did.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus paid the price for our jealousy and all our sins through his death and resurrection in our place. This is the power that can break the grip of jealousy in our lives.

Jesus in us: It is Jesus' unconditional love that can fill our lives, so we find satisfaction in him and are not quick to turn our hearts to jealousy.

Jesus through us: As we give our best to God, we do so by showing his love and concern for others, and by building them up rather than seeking to take away from them.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring the worship symbols forward such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name, "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit".

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *some kind of award for the best behavior like a certificate, sticker, or candy*

Prior to Kids Church, choose a student who would not be recognized by his peers as having outstanding behavior. Pick one who would surprise the kids as being recognized for his good behavior. As children settle, say:

Today I am giving an award to one student who displays wonderful cooperation, who is kind and considerate, who is patient and caring, who is wise in the answers given, and who shows exceptional behavior. Do you think you might be able to guess who this is?

Then call forward the individual you have chosen. Hopefully, this will be a big surprise. Give this child an award.

Did any of you think you should have been the person chosen? Did you wish something bad on the person chosen because you wanted what he received? This feeling is called jealousy.

There are many of you who could qualify for this exceptional behavior award. I am just trying to make a point and help you understand what jealousy looks and feels like.

Worship is giving glory to God, not seeking glory for us. When we worship, our eyes are on God.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Read Genesis 4:7b.

“...sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it.”

Sin wants to be our master. It can happen in our hearts first then in our actions. When we think a bad thought about someone and then do that bad thing, we are sinning.

Close your eyes and think of someone you have had bad thoughts about. Maybe they have done something against you or they have something that you would like to have and don't. Have you wished badly for them?

In your heart and mind, tell Jesus that you are sorry for having those bad feelings toward someone else. Jesus knows what it is like to be wronged. But even when he was beat up and put on a cross to die, he did not wish badly on anyone. He even said, “Father, forgive them. They don't know what they're doing.”

Jesus looks at us right now and says the same thing. “Father, forgive them.” Because Jesus forgives us, we have the power to forgive others.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *slip of paper for each child*
- *pencils*

God has given us each gifts to use for his glory and to give back to him. Draw a picture or write a word about something you do well. When you present this gift back to God with your offerings, remember you do not seek glory and fame for yourself but you are giving back to him. And since each of us is given a special gift from God, we do not need to be jealous of others and what they may have.



The Word

Learning Game (Optional):

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Rock/Paper/Scissors—Team Version:

Supplies:

- *masking tape*

Lay three parallel lines of masking tape on the floor approximately ten feet apart. Divide the group into two teams, and place them facing each other behind the outside lines. Each team is standing in its “no capture” zone.

Each team will huddle together and decide whether they will be rock, paper, or scissors. They then go to the middle line where individuals face off with members of the other team, that has also chosen whether they are rock, paper, or scissors.

The group leaders then call for both teams, who are now facing each other a few feet apart, to slam their fists into their hands as they say, “Rock, paper, scissors,” and then throw their sign. The team that shows the dominant sign will try to tag individuals from the other team, which is trying to escape behind their line into the “no capture” zone.

The order of signs is this:

1. Scissors cuts paper.
2. Paper covers rock.
3. Rock breaks scissors.

All captured players go to the other team’s side and participate as part of that team. No team wins this game, but players end up exchanging sides often.

If the children learn the game well, they might be able to choose two signs each time they have a huddle. The second sign would be used in case both teams choose the same first sign.

The teaching point is:

In this game we were trying to catch someone because our sign was better than his. But which team won? Right. There really wasn't a winner. When people are jealous of others, they often chase them, too. They chase them in a way in which no one ends up winning. Jealous people end up wanting what someone else has, but they never end up happy, because they always want something else. They never win, just like in this game.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

In the Bible event of Cain and Abel, Cain became very jealous of Abel because God approved of Abel and his offering. God didn't approve of Cain and his offering. God saw Cain's angry heart and warned him, "Why are you angry, and why do you look disappointed? If you do well, won't you be accepted? But if you don't do well, sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it." Instead, Cain let jealousy master him and he killed his brother, Abel.

God gave both Cain and Abel gifts and abilities, even though they were different. He expected both to give their best. Cain didn't. God wants each of us to give the best of what we have and not to worry about what we don't have.

The Bible has words for us to guard against jealousy towards others. Galatians 5:26 says, "*We can't allow ourselves to act arrogantly and to provoke or envy each other.*" Instead we are to "*encourage each other and strengthen one another...*" (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Application:

Supplies:

- *Video: McGee and Me: Back to the Drawing Board (Focus on the Family, Living Bibles International, 1990)—order from Focus on the Family's web site <http://www.family.org/resources/itempg.cfm?itemid=4675>*
- *Video Option: Toying with the Truth by George Taweel and Rob Loos, Tyndale House.*

Show the 30-minute video, *McGee and Me: Recharged #2 "Back to the Drawing Board."* Nick has a really bad case of jealousy when a new kid at school has drawing talent and they both enter a poster contest. Nick learns that jealousy causes a lot of hurt, anger, and frustration—especially for the one who is jealous.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids share about times they were jealous and how it brought them pain or caused them to sin. Have a time of sharing how giving back to God or encouraging others made them joyful.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- some kind of award for the best behavior, such as a certificate, sticker, or candy

Offering:

- slip of paper for each child
- pencils

Learning Game (optional):

- masking tape

Bible Presentation Application:

- video: *McGee and Me: Back to the Drawing Board* (Focus on the Family, Living Bibles International, 1990)—order from Focus on the Family's web site, <http://www.family.org/resources/itempg.cfm?itemid=4675>
- *Video Option: Toying with the Truth* by George Taweel and Rob Loos, Tyndale House.

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