



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Summer Year 3, Lesson 10

Saul Is Destroyed by Jealousy

Take Home Point: * Jealousy can poison our hearts.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: 1 Samuel 18 through 26

Key Verse: Galatians 5:26, "We can't allow ourselves to act arrogantly and to provoke or envy each other."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Saul trying to kill David.
- Jealousy means you want what someone else has and wish them evil so you can get it.
- We should want what Jesus wants for us.




We will help kids feel:

- How easy it is to feel jealous.
- Secure in how God can provide just what we need.

We will help kids do:

- Identify areas of jealousy.
- Pray that they would overcome jealousy because of Jesus' power to forgive us and change us.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Play the game "Spoons" to learn about jealousy. The kids may feel some jealousy as they wait for someone to give them the right cards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • spoon for each child • deck of cards for each group
Large Group 	4 7 9 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Goes Green with Envy" Carnival Game with Bible Event Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Goes Green with Envy" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • five two-liter bottles with quiz card attached to each (see appendix pages 12-14) • five packages of green War Heads candies • Nerf gun or ball for throwing at bottles
Small Group Application 	4	Build a house out of cards to remind the kids of Saul trying to build a kingdom just for himself where he was the one who would get the glory. Kids discuss some situations in which they might get jealous and then discuss how instead of letting <i>*jealousy poison our hearts</i> , we can rejoice with others when good things happen to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deck of cards for each group

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Play the game “Spoons.” Gather the children in a circle and place some plastic spoons in the middle. Have one less spoon than there are kids playing.

Deal out four cards to every player. The object is to collect four of a kind (such as four jacks or four twos). As soon as someone has four of a kind, he takes a spoon from the middle. All players then reach to grab a spoon as fast as they can. The player who does not get a spoon is eliminated from the circle. *(Optional: To shorten the length of the game, deal only three cards to each player and the person who gets three of a kind wins.)*

To play, take one card from the top of the deck and put it in your hand. Then pass one card from your hand that you do not want to keep, to the person on your right. The next person picks up your discard and either keeps it or passes it on. The following person in the circle picks up his discard and so on. Remind kids they can only keep four cards in their hand at a time and must always discard so the next person has a card to pick up.

For the next round, a spoon is removed from the pile of spoons in the middle so there is one spoon less than the number of players, and the game continues. The position of dealer moves around the circle to the right. If there is enough time, the game will come down to one final child.

Stop after ten minutes to talk about what was happening in the game.

How did you feel waiting for the person next to you give you the right cards so you could pick up a spoon? How did you feel when you were the one left out of the group? Did you have feelings of jealousy?

Do you ever remember getting jealous of the attention that your brother/sister or a friend received? Tell us about it.

After the children have answered this question, ask a second question that begins to indicate jealousy.

Have you ever wished for attention so much that you took attention away from your brother or sister or wished bad for them?

**“Jealousy” means you want something that someone else has so much that you wish them evil so you would get that thing instead.
*Jealousy can poison our hearts. Today we will find out how jealousy poisoned Saul’s heart against David.**

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Goes Green with Envy” – Gordy gets jealous that he is not one of the contestants to play the carnival game.

Carnival Game with Bible Event: The five Bible events from 1 Samuel 18-26 will be shortened and summarized as part of a carnival booth that knocks over five empty two-liter bottles.

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Goes Green with Envy” Conclusion – Gordy learned that David trusted God to give him just what he needed. God would take care of making David king when it was the right time.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Gather the children in a group and take out the playing cards. Build a card house with the kids by stacking the cards at right angles on their sides.

This house is kind of like what Saul was trying to do. He tried to build a kingdom just for himself where he was the one who would get the glory. He wanted everyone to think he was the best because he was king. Was he concerned about obeying God? No, he was trying to kill David.

What are some things Saul did that did not please God? *(He threw a spear at David, he tried to get David killed in battle, he sent soldiers to kill David in his house, he killed the priest and his family, and he hunted after David.)*

The more Saul became jealous of David, the more his heart was filled with poison. Saul was not happy and he was not living for God. Soon

he did not even trust his own children, Jonathan and Michal. Because of all this, Saul's kingdom fell.

Pull out a card and watch the house fall down.

Any time we try to build a kingdom just for ourselves, we can become jealous of other people who might have something we think is better than what we have. All we are worrying about is ourselves. A kingdom of our own selfishness will always fall down.

God says there is a way *not* to have envy or jealousy. We can do this when we are filled with Jesus. Jesus came to earth as God's Son. Jesus was not jealous that his Heavenly Father stayed in heaven and he had to come here as a man. Instead, he was obedient and lived his life to God's glory all the way to the point of dying on the cross for us.

When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, he fills our lives with his love. We do not worry about trying to build our own kingdom like Saul. Instead, we can be like David. We can be confident of God's plan for our lives and we can help build God's kingdom.

Have the children lay the playing cards face down in the shape of a cross. Then let kids take turns flipping over a card. Ask a question according to the suit of the card turned face up.

SPADES: The opposite of jealousy is generosity. Tell us something that you gave to someone else.

HEARTS: Who is a good friend? Tell us about something good that happened to your friend that you were happy about. Were you thankful or jealous something good happened to him or her?

CLUBS: If you could buy your parent any gift he or she wanted, what would it be? Would this be as good as getting a gift yourself?

DIAMONDS: If you could trade places with anyone else in the world, who would you be? (You have to choose someone.) Why is it better to be yourself than that person?

Close with this thought:

Being jealous of other people can poison our hearts, like it poisoned Saul's heart. Galatians 5:26 says, *"We can't allow ourselves to act arrogantly and to provoke or envy each other."*

Instead of letting **jealousy poison our hearts* we can rejoice with others when good things happen to them and they have nice things. To keep from being jealous, it is important to pray for other people and thank God for blessing them.

Another way to keep **jealousy from poisoning our hearts*, is to think more about how we can help God's kingdom than about building our own kingdom. Let's pray for other people so that we can witness to them and help God's kingdom grow.

Prayer Time:

Be sure to reinforce the message of Jesus. He was not jealous and he gave his life on the cross for us. By trusting in him, we can be forgiven and free to be generous like Jesus.

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Large Group Presentation

Gordy Goes Green with Envy

Puppet Presentation

Mr. King: Welcome, kids, to Kingdom Quest Carnival. We have a special treat for you today in our carnival game. This carnival game is called “Knockin’ Down Jealousy.” Can I have some volunteers from the audience?

Gordy: *(Comes from behind puppet stage.)* Here I am, Mr. King! I want to play today!

Mr. King: I’m sorry, Gordy. This is for the kids. I need a contestant who is able to throw (or shoot a Nerf gun) at these bottles up here as we knock down jealousy.

Gordy: But, Mr. King, I want to shoot some down.

Mr. King: Gordy, you’re my helper. You are not supposed to be a contestant.

Gordy: But I wanna! Why do they always get to have the fun?

Mr. King: Gordy, you get to be up here every Sunday, and we have different people out here each week. Now the contestant today who knocks down a bottle is going to get a special surprise—a box of War Heads candies.

Gordy: Not fair!

Mr. King: Gordy.

Gordy: NOT FAIR! I want War Heads candies!

Mr. King: Gordy, it looks to me like you’re turning green.

Gordy: I’m not turning green! I’m turning mad because they get a chance to get War Heads and I don’t get any.

Mr. King: Gordy, I say you’re turning green because it looks to me like you’re green with envy.

Gordy: Envy? What is that?

Mr. King: It’s when you’re jealous.

Gordy: What does it mean to be jealous?

Mr. King: It means that you want what someone else has so much that you wish he was hurt or that something was taken away from him so you could have it.

Gordy: Well, all I want are War Heads and a chance to play the game.

Mr. King: That's what I mean. You probably wish these kids didn't have a chance to do it so you could.

Gordy: Duh! Of course!

Mr. King: But, Gordy, it's not your turn. You're supposed to be my helper. You don't want to get all eaten up on the inside with envy.

Gordy: Well, what about the War Heads?

Mr. King: Enough about the War Heads. I'll tell you what I'll do. For every one of the bottles these volunteers knock over, they get a chance to guess how the Bible event ended. I'll let you put your guess in, as well.

Gordy: What do you mean?

Mr. King: Here's the rule. I have five bottles up here, right?

Gordy: Right.

Mr. King: Behind every bottle is a true event from the Bible about David and Saul. Each one of these events has to do with Saul being jealous of David.

Gordy: Why was he jealous of David?

Mr. King: Saul was the first king of Israel, but he didn't follow God with his whole heart. So, God took Saul's kingdom away and gave it to David.

Gordy: And Saul didn't like that.

Mr. King: Right. He was jealous of everything about David, and it ate him up on the inside.

Gordy: Is that what turned him green on the outside?

Mr. King: What do you mean?

Gordy: You know "green with envy."

Mr. King: Oh, that's just a saying. He's not really green. But when someone is filled with so much envy or jealousy, we sometimes refer to him as being "green with envy."

Let's start the game and see what happened between Saul and David.

Bible Event with Carnival Game

1 Samuel 18-27

Today's Bible event spans many chapters recounting various episodes of Saul's jealousy against David. Five episodes will be briefly recounted. The large group presenter is strongly encouraged to read for himself these episodes in full so certain details might be added as it is being told. These Bible events will be told as part of a carnival booth that knocks over five empty two-liter bottles. On the back of each empty two-liter bottles is taped a quiz card cut from the appendix. The cards are numbered in sequential order one through five.

After a bottle is knocked down by throwing a ball or shooting a Nerf gun, the contestant gets to hear part of the Bible event and guess the ending from the choices offered. (The correct answer is apparent!) If the child is correct, he wins a package of green War Heads. (Green reminds us of envy and War Heads might remind us how Saul was ready to do battle against David because he was so jealous.)

It is important to have five packages of candy so the contestant becomes exceptionally "rich." Other kids might envy him and be jealous that he is so lucky to have won all of the candy.

Gordy can be given an option to answer the questions but always gets the answer wrong. Gordy can briefly ad-lib about why he chose such a crazy answer.

The large group presenter concludes with the following questions about jealousy.

Mr. King: Who can remember some of the things that Saul did because he was jealous of David?

Why do you think Saul became so jealous?

Saul was mostly interested in how he looked as king. He was very threatened by any other king. He was not following God's way or even recognizing that God was truly the King over all. Saul was just trying to build a kingdom for himself instead of a kingdom for God. His heart was poisoned because of his jealousy for David.

Gordy Goes Green with Envy

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: I would like to thank and congratulate the contestant and let him take his War Heads back to his seat.

Gordy: Mr. King, I think I'm having a problem.

Mr. King: What is it?

Gordy: I want to go over there and rip those War Heads right outta that kid's hands.

Mr. King: Yes, that is a problem.

Gordy: Yeah, because he's bigger than me.

Mr. King: No, it's a problem because of another reason. It says in the Bible in Galatians 5:26, *"We can't allow ourselves to act arrogantly and to provoke or envy each other."* Do you know what that means?

Gordy: Well, it means we shouldn't be jealous of another guy getting War Heads when we don't get any. And we shouldn't want to go rip 'em outta his hands.

Mr. King: That's it exactly.

Gordy: But sometimes it's so easy to get jealous or envy others.

Mr. King: I know, Gordy. But you can do what David did.

Gordy: What's that?

Mr. King: David trusted God to give him just what he needed, and he didn't worry about trying to take Saul's kingdom away from him. God would take care of making David king when it was the right time.

Gordy: You mean like God will take care of giving me War Heads when it's the right time?

Mr. King: Maybe so. More important than War Heads, God wants to fill your life with his presence.

Gordy: How does he do that?

Mr. King: He gives his Son Jesus. Jesus was never jealous of anyone else. Instead, Jesus did just what God wanted him to do and went all the way to the cross to die for our sins.

Gordy: But he didn't stay dead.

Mr. King: You're right. He's alive right now so that when we trust him, he lives right in our hearts so we won't have to be jealous of others. We can simply trust God.

Gordy: Well, that's what I need.

Mr. King: Why don't you pray for it.

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, it's true that jealousy can poison our hearts. And even when we don't get stuff like War Heads, we need to trust you and that you will give us the best. And I guess you already did since you gave us your Son Jesus. Help us trust you in all things. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Quiz Cards for the Carnival Game

These cards are to be cut out and taped to back of the two-liter bottles.

#1

Because David had defeated Goliath, Saul made him captain of the army. David was very loyal to Saul and he soon became a favorite of the people and all the soldiers.

When Saul heard the women singing in the streets, "Saul has killed his thousands, but David has killed ten thousands," he burned with jealousy. Saul was afraid David would take his kingdom away from him. He became so jealous on three separate occasions, he was overwhelmed. Saul threw something at David while David was playing music. What did he throw?

- a. A shoe.
- b. A spit wad.
- c. A spear.

#2

Saul was afraid he would lose his kingdom. Instead of making David king of the whole army, he made David captain of just 1,000 men. David was still faithful to Saul. David was humble and served God in what he did.

Saul decided to let David marry his young daughter, Michal, because she was in love with David. In those days when you married someone, you had to pay money to the bride's father. Instead of money, Saul asked David to kill 100 Philistines as payment for the bride. Saul asked for this because he thought David would be killed trying achieve this goal.

When he heard about this, David

- a. decided he didn't want to be married after all.
- b. asked Saul if he had any other daughters that weren't so expensive.
- c. killed 200 instead of 100 because the Lord was with him.

#3

One time when Saul was so consumed with jealousy over David, he sent soldiers into David's house to find and kill him. David's wife, Michal, found out about the plan. While the soldiers were coming up to his room, Michal helped David escape by

- a. fighting all the soldiers herself.
- b. giving the soldiers a whole case of War Heads if they wouldn't kill him.
- c. lowering David out the window and stuffing something under his blanket to make it look like he was in bed.

#4

When David was running from Saul, he went to a priest in the town that was keeping the tabernacle. He asked the priest to give him some bread. The priest took bread from the tabernacle and gave it to David. The priest also gave David Goliath's sword. David dedicated the sword to the Lord and left it there.

The priest did not know David was running away from Saul. When Saul found out the priest had helped David, Saul ordered the death of that priest and all the other priests and their families. When Saul gave this order to the soldiers, they feared the Lord more than they feared Saul. They refused to kill the priests. Saul found someone else to do it. Who did he find?

- a. Darth Vader
- b. The Joker
- c. A dishonorable man named Doeg who had seen David visit the priest.

#5

Traveling with his army, Saul searched the wilderness for David. Little did he know, David and his men were hiding in a cave. Tired from the march, Saul went into the cave to rest and soon fell asleep. David's soldiers wanted to kill Saul, but David said no. "We are not to touch him because he has been anointed by God." David knew God would take care of dealing with Saul and God would protect David. David cut a piece from Saul's robe.

When Saul awoke and walked out to join his men, David followed him. David said, "Saul, you are still my lord and king. Look, I could have killed you. I have a piece of your robe that I cut off. You know I would not harm you and yet you try to take my life. May the Lord judge who is right." When Saul heard this, what was his reaction?

- a. He yelled at David for ruining a good robe.
- b. He ran back into the cave for his pillow.
- c. He cried because he saw the good David had done to him as compared to the evil he had tried to do to David.

BONUS QUESTION

Saul still pursued David with his army. While he and his watchmen were sleeping at night, David and his men snuck into their camp. They stole something of Saul's to prove that again they could have killed him. What did they steal?

- a. His Game Boy
- b. His teddy bear
- c. His jar of water and spear.