

H.O.P.E. CYCLE 8: JEALOUSY

How to have a student-led club:

- A student opens and closes meetings in prayer
- A student explains the purpose of First Priority
- Students read verses and questions for the week

Memory Verse: No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

Week 1: HELP

The definition of jealousy is an unhappy or angry feeling of wanting to have what someone else has. In this cycle we will discuss this destructive feeling and how to overcome it. If not acknowledged & dealt with, jealousy leads to hatred, and hatred leads to bitterness and betrayal.

- 1) **Read Genesis 37:2-4.** Why did Joseph's brothers dislike him so much?
- 2) Describe a time when you were jealous of someone. How did this affect your relationship with that person?
- 3) **Read Exodus 20:17.** What does God tell us about jealousy? (in this verse, "wanting" is equal to "jealousy")
- 4) Jealousy can be destructive to any relationship. Discuss some healthy options in dealing with jealousy.
- 5) God knew we would struggle with sin, so He sent Jesus to help us. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.** These verses describe Jesus. How could trusting Jesus HELP you to be more like Jesus?
- 6) How do these verses challenge you or encourage you?

Challenge: Ask students to pray for 2 friends to attend First Priority.

HELP Week Bible Verses

Genesis 37:2-4 (TLB): Jacob's son Joseph was now seventeen years old. His job, along with his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah, was to shepherd his father's flocks. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things they were doing. ³ Now as it happened, Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other children, because Joseph was born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob gave him a special gift—a brightly colored coat. ⁴ His brothers of course noticed their father's partiality, and consequently hated Joseph; they couldn't say a kind word to him.

Exodus 20:17 (ERV): "You must not want to take your neighbor's house. You must not want his wife. And you must not want his men and women servants or his cattle or his donkeys. You must not want to take anything that belongs to another person."

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ERV): Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, and it is not proud. ⁵ Love is not rude, it is not selfish, and it cannot be made angry easily. Love does not remember wrongs done against it. ⁶ Love is never happy when others do wrong, but it is always happy with the truth. ⁷ Love never gives up on people. It never stops trusting, never loses hope, and never quits.

Week 2: OVERCOME

Read the following verses about the prodigal son (the youngest son) who wasted his inheritance from his father: **Luke 15:13, 17-24, and 28-29.**

- 1) In this parable, the older brother is jealous of his younger brother. Why do you think this is?
- 2) How does it make you feel when others, especially those who sin differently than you do, seem to get rewarded for their bad behavior? Is there a situation you might share of when this happened to you?
- 3) **Read Philippians 4:11-13.** In Christ, we can and will be content in every circumstance. Comparison is the greatest robber of our God-given identity. Comparison robs us from the joy that is ours in a unique, personal calling from God. Comparison provokes jealousy. Has comparing yourself to another person ever made you feel better? In order to break old habits, we have to replace them with a new one. Next time you find yourself discontent with your circumstances, try being thankful to God for *who you are* and *what you have* already been given?
- 4) Read **Matthew 25:23.** The master says to the servant: "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. When it comes to contentment vs comparison, what does this Scripture say to you?"

Challenge: At the end of the meeting, gather in a circle and pray for each other.

OVERCOME Week Bible Verses

Luke 15:12-13, 17-24, and 28-29 (ICB): The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me my share of the property.’ So the father divided the property between his two sons.¹³ Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and left. He traveled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living.¹⁷ The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, ‘All of my father’s servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger.’¹⁸ I will leave and return to my father. I’ll say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and against you.¹⁹ I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants.’²⁰ So the son left and went to his father. “While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. He felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him, and hugged and kissed him.²¹ The son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.’²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.’²³ And get our fat calf and kill it. Then we can have a feast and celebrate!²⁴ My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!’ So they began to celebrate.²⁸ The older son was angry and would not go in to the feast. So his father went out and begged him to come in.²⁹ The son said to his father, ‘I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even killed a young goat for me to have a feast with my friends.’

Philippians 4:11-13 (ERV): I am telling you this, but not because I need something. I have learned to be satisfied with what I have and with whatever happens.¹² I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of situation—when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing.¹³ Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do. (read other versions of this verse too, if you have time)

Matthew 25:23 (NIV): “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’”

Week Three: PREPARE

Leaders, please prepare for next week’s ENGAGE meeting by signing up volunteers to share their faith story, the gospel/invitation, and to follow up with first time visitors.

- 1) **1 Corinthians 12: 4 & 5.** Jesus has given each one of us different gifts to be used for His kingdom service. Why do you think this is?
- 2) **Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11.** The next time you are tempted to give into jealousy, how does this verse say to respond? Can you give an example of a time when you were jealous of someone and this would have helped you? Be specific.
- 3) **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13.** The next time you are tempted by jealousy, remember that God has provided a way out! Don’t allow jealousy to rob you of what God has planned for you.

Challenge: Ask students to invite at least 2 friends to the meeting next week.

PREPARE Week Bible Verses

1 Corinthians 12: 4&5 (NIV): ⁴There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (GNT): And so encourage one another and help one another, just as you are now doing.

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV): No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

Week Four: ENGAGE

Use your faith story to **ENGAGE** your campus for Christ. Share the gospel message and invitation (see below). Please remember to use the Student Response Cards (found on our website under Students tab), and to report attendance and decisions (on the phone app).

Challenge: Invite two friends to your youth group or church this week.

Gospel Message (To be read aloud to the group):

- **A:** Admit that you are a sinner and that sin has separated you from God.
- **B:** Believe in Jesus and put your trust in Him. Christ's death on a cross two thousand years ago was an act of selfless love, and HE made it possible for all people to encounter God.
- **C:** Confess Christ Jesus as your Lord and Savior. This means acknowledging that you want Him in your life.

Invitation/Prayer (ask students to bow their heads):

If this message is speaking to you today, and you want to trust in Jesus as your Savior then pray this simple prayer to yourself: Dear Lord, I admit that I have sinned and this has separated me from you. But, I believe that through you I can be forgiven. Today, I pray that you will come into my life and help me to trust in you. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Follow UP Plan:

Once you've shared the gospel and invitation, collect the Student Response Cards (can be downloaded from the First Priority website) and then follow these steps:

1. Student leaders commit to praying for and contacting any student who has made a decision for Christ and/or has questions.
2. When contacting these students, student leaders will want to:
 - Answer any questions they may have
 - Offer to pray for them
 - Invite them to the next week's HELP Week meeting
 - Invite them to your church, if they don't have one
3. Return all Student Response cards to the group president or teachers sponsor (Response cards or information on the cards must never be given to an outside adult or organization/ church)

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