OVERVIEW

Scripture
David maintains respect for jealous King Saul—1 Samuel 18:5–19:18

Bible Truth
God helps us do what is right to others even when they are jealous of us.

Life Response Aim
To avoid our own jealous responses and seek to do what is right to others when they are jealous of us.

Memory Verse
“For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.” James 3:16, KJV

“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.” James 3:16, NIV

FOCUS
Recognizing Jealousy

DISCOVER
Saul’s Jealousy of David

RESPOND
Get Rid of Jealousy

PREPARING YOUR HEART TO TEACH

Read this week’s lesson text: 1 Samuel 18:5—19:18.

• Think of the times you have seen others enjoy or accomplish what you have not had the opportunity to do—but would like to. How did the other person’s success affect your relationship with him or her?

• Saul was jealous of this younger man who was getting more glory than he. Look in the passage for evidence of David’s attitude toward and relationship with his monarch.

• There are two sides to this story and this lesson. First, jealousy—Saul’s problem. Second, respect—David’s example in responding to Saul acting out his problem. Pray for the ability to avoid Saul’s problem and follow David’s example when you are in David’s position.
Recognizing Jealousy

If this is your first class with this group of students, take some time to get acquainted with them. For example, have them each give his or her name and tell one thing he or she enjoyed doing this past summer. The students may already know each other and have told these stories to at least some of the others, so challenge them to tell something no one else in the group knows yet. If you know other family members, be careful of making those associations. Children often appreciate being known for who they are as individuals, especially if they have well-known older siblings or parents in the church.

Then go back around the circle and have each one identify a skill or characteristic about him- or herself.

Don’t rush this getting-acquainted phase. This activity tells your boys and girls that you’re really interested in them, and it lays the foundation for the next activity that introduces the lesson theme. Make mental notes of what they say so you can begin filling out the “Know Your Students” (page 5) on each one later.

Describe the following scenario, or adapt it to use one of the skills identified by one of your students.

Ken and Todd took part in the school field day last spring. Todd has always bragged about being really fast, but Ken outran him. Since then Todd has been trying to get back at Ken. For example, Todd has tried to bump or trip Ken whenever they’ve seen each other. All summer he’s been telling his friends that Ken is stupid.

• Why do you suppose Todd would do that? (He’s angry because he was beaten— he’s jealous.)

Now they’re back in class together and the first thing Todd did when he saw Ken was try to trip him.

• What do you think Ken should do? Here are some choices. Devise a way for students to respond in agreement or disagreement with these choices, such as thumbs up or down, or cheering and booing.

1. Challenge Todd to a fight.
2. Make fun of Todd for losing the race.
3. Tell everyone that Todd’s a liar and a sore loser.
4. Break Todd’s bike when he gets a chance. Let students suggest other possible reactions.

• Has anyone ever been jealous of you?
• What did he or she do to show the jealousy?
• How did you respond?
• How do you get along with that person now?

TRANSITION ➔ Jealous people can do hurtful things. We want to avoid being jealous of others. But when someone is jealous of us, we need to know how to respond. That’s something we can learn from David, who found out how to handle King Saul’s jealousy.

ENRICHMENT IDEAS

One-Up

Many people engage in this game when describing their feats. The classic example is “fish stories.” If one friend describes his or her catch, the other often thinks it necessary to describe a bigger fish. If one Middler describes a daring feat such as taking a jump on a dirt bike, the next one may declare he or she took a bigger jump. Let the class play with this tendency as follows:

I’m going to describe something impressive that I did. Then [the person on your left] will describe doing the same thing only add to it so it was an even better achievement. Then [the next person] will add on to it. Let’s see how big an achievement we can come up with by the time we get around the circle.

• Have you ever been in a conversation like that, where people tried to impress the others by saying they did something even bigger and better?
• How would you label the feeling people had toward someone who did more than they did? Let students suggest some words.

In our Bible story today we’ll learn about a king of Israel who had a hard time accepting that someone else did something better—he was jealous.
Saul’s Jealousy of David

When Saul watched David, who was a hero to everyone in the land but himself, Saul got even more angry. He said to himself, “I’ll pin David to the wall” — and picked up his spear and threw it at David. David dodged, and the spear missed him. Saul threw another spear, but once again David dodged it. Show picture 2.

Saul Plots David’s Death
(1 Samuel 18:12–19:18)

Saul was afraid of David. Samuel had already told him that because Saul didn’t obey God, God would put another king on the throne (15:26). And clearly, the Lord was with David. Maybe David was going to be that king!

From that day on, Saul was suspicious of David. Before long he couldn’t stand having David near him.

Shortly after that, Saul put David in charge of 1,000 soldiers and sent him into battle. He was hoping that David would be killed. Show picture 3. But instead of getting killed, David had great success. The Lord was with him, and he won many fights against the Philistines. David became even more popular.

What was even worse to Saul was that his daughter Michal (MY-kal) loved David. So Saul decided he would use Michal’s love to get rid of David. Saul told David that if he killed 100 Philistines he could marry Michal. Again Saul figured the 100 Philistines would probably kill David instead! Hold up picture 4.

Well, that didn’t work. David and his men attacked the Philistines and killed 200! So David married Saul’s daughter and became Saul’s son-in-law.

Saul seemed to be spending most of his time thinking and worrying about David. Finally he told his son, Jonathan, and some of his servants, “Kill David.” Show picture 5.

Jonathan and David were best friends, so Jonathan warned David to hide. Then Jonathan went to his father and reminded him of how faithful David had been. Saul seemed to be convinced and promised not to kill David.

But when war with the Philistines started up again, David was right there winning battles and being cheered as a hero. David’s new success threw Saul into a rage. One evening Saul sat glaring at David and suddenly grabbed a spear and again threw it at David. Show picture 6.

Saul Goes into a Rage
(1 Samuel 18:5-11)

Hold up picture 1. Saul’s army had defeated the Philistines. Saul and his army were marching back home. Word of their victory had spread and as they marched through the towns, women came out to cheer the soldiers. In one of their victory songs, the women sang, “Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands.” The women were giving greater praise to young David than to King Saul!

The song made Saul furious. He must have thought, I have won many great battles, and all David has done is kill one giant and fight a few little battles. But whom did the women sing about? They sang about David! The king was so upset that he said to himself, “David already gets the praise I deserve. What more can he take but my kingdom?”

Saul was in a really dark mood by the time he arrived home. So one of Saul’s men called David to play his harp. The soft and gentle music usually quieted Saul when he was upset—but not this time!

David was a shepherd from the time he was your age. He probably expected to live a simple life with his family, taking care of his sheep in the fields near his home in Bethlehem.

But God had a different plan for David’s life. He chose David to become king of Israel, taking the place of Saul. God was very unhappy with the way Saul had carried out his reign. Saul had disobeyed the Lord many times. So God was not going to permit any of Saul’s children to become king after him.

The story of how the king and David met, and how Saul reacted as he began to realize that David would be his replacement, is an exciting one. Let’s pick up the story after David killed Goliath and became a successful officer in Saul’s army.

Cut the eight pictures from Sheet 1, Teaching Resources. Hold up each picture to illustrate the story as directed. Then line them up on the table. At the end of the narrative you’ll let students turn them over and unscramble the word JEALOUSY. The pictures are designed for a small class; if you’re teaching a large group you may want to pass each picture around the class after introducing it.
David ducked and ran. But this time Saul decided to chase after David, and he sent men to David's house with orders to kill David when he came out.

But David didn't come out. He had escaped through a window overlooking a wall. Show picture 7.

He climbed down a rope and vanished into the night. His wife had stuffed his bed to make it look like he was still sleeping.

The next morning Michal lied and said David was sick in bed. Saul ordered his soldiers to go into David's house and bring David back to him, bed and all. But when Saul's men entered the room, they realized that David was gone. They reported this to Saul.

Meanwhile, David escaped to the town of Ramah to visit Samuel the prophet. Show picture 8.

- What was Saul's problem? Let students turn the eight picture cards over to spell out the answer: JEALOUSY. If you have a large class, let eight students come to the front and arrange themselves in correct order as they hold the cards so all can see them.

What Jealousy Leads To

As you discuss the following questions, don’t look for specific answers, but encourage your students to think and interact.

- Why was Saul so jealous of David?
- How did Saul's jealousy show up in how he acted?
- Did Saul's jealousy get worse, or did it stay the same? How can you tell?
- Did David try to make Saul jealous?
- How did David deal with Saul's jealous behavior?

ENRICHMENT IDEAS

ACTION ALTERNATIVE

After presenting the narrative, with or without using the pictures from Sheet 1, Teaching Resources, hand out the pictures to students. Challenge them to retell the portion of the story illustrated on their picture, either verbally or dramatically. The numbers in the corners of the pictures will help them put the story in correct sequence.
Divide the class into two groups to discuss how to deal with jealousy. You may want to attach rulers or sticks to the backs of the pictures from Sheet 2, Teaching Resources, and let students use them like puppets. Be ready to direct them to specific Bible passages on jealousy, such as Romans 13:10, 12-14; Hebrews 13:5; James 3:14-16; 4:1-3, 7-8.

**Group 1**
Give these students the picture of Saul and Sue from Sheet 2, Teaching Resources. Ask them to advise these two how to deal with the problem of jealous feelings and find God’s way to get rid of these damaging feelings. Some Middlers may have a hard time advising Sue without a specific context, so let them decide what Sue is jealous about.

**Group 2**
Give these students the pictures of David and Dan, also from Sheet 2. Ask them to advise these people how to deal with the problem of others being jealous of them. Again you may need to let students create a context for Dan’s problem.

Then have each student find a partner from the other group. Instruct them to tell their partners what they did and learned in their larger group.

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**ACTION ALTERNATIVE**
One of the important elements in these lessons for Middlers is the follow-up material provided in Counselor. The daily Bible lookups are especially valuable for the children. These readings will keep your boys and girls focused on the Sunday theme each day of the week. And this activity will also build the habit of daily Bible reading.

This first week of the new Sunday School year, however, assign each of the daily readings in the Breaktime section of today’s Counselor to six different students. Next week, have each tell briefly what he or she found. Talk about how the verses (James 3:13-16) might help them deal with jealous feelings or with jealous friends.

Then encourage your students to use the Breaktime section each day throughout the whole year.

**ACROSTIC**
Work with the group to write an acrostic poem that expresses the results of being jealous. Print the acrostic on the board. Here is an example.

- Jealousy produces
- Envy,
- Anger,
- Lying,
- unOving actions,
- Ugly feelings,
- Sadness.
- YeS, it’s the opposite of love.

**MEMORY VERSE “GO-AROUND’’**
Have students stand in a circle. Say the memory verse, James 3:16, together two or three times in unison. Then point to a student to say the first word of the verse. The next student must say the second word of the verse, the next student says the third word, and so on. Go around the circle, clockwise, until the verse is completed. A student who misses a word must drop out of the circle. Continue saying the verse until only one or two students are left in the circle.
God has told us how to get along with others and treat them right. We don’t have to be filled with unhappy, jealous feelings. And we don’t have to let other people’s jealous feelings toward us get in the way of our friendships. We can remember that God loves us and makes us unique. If we thank God for everything that happens to us, it will make a real difference in how we feel about ourselves and others.

Let students try paraphrasing James 3:16. To help them understand it better, make a word card for each key word in the verse and explain its meaning. Their paraphrases could then use synonyms for some of those words.

Complete the activity on page 4 together, helping students learn of God’s ways of handling jealousy.

Provide paper and pencils and have students write brief sentence prayers. The students might confess feeling jealous, ask for help for a friend who shows jealous feelings, or ask for strength to do right when someone is jealous of them. Then have each pray by reading aloud what he or she has written.

**At Home This Week**

Distribute Counselor to each student.

In today’s feature story, “Enough Love to Go Around,” Sarah shares her feelings of insecurity openly with her grandma. Through her grandmother’s wise counsel, and the work of the Spirit in her heart, Sara comes to see that God can change a competitive relationship into one of friendship and love.

Your students who have experienced the challenge of accepting new family relationships may find this story especially helpful.

Be sure to review each feature with any new students, and encourage all your students to use the daily Bible readings in Breaktime.

**WORSHIP IDEAS**

**Music:**

Sing “I Want to Work for Jesus” from page 30, Bible Promises. Songs about friendship will be helpful with this lesson and unit. Also, look for some that encourage students to treat other people right.

**Worship Activity:**

Have students follow along in their Bibles as you read the memory verse in context, beginning at verse 13 or 14 and ending at 17 or 18. Discuss how the traits listed in 17 are opposites of jealousy.

- If jealousy is green like the saying “green with envy,” what color would you assign “wisdom from above (or heaven)”?

**Closing:**

Let students silently identify a person who either causes them to be jealous, or shows jealousy toward them. Pray aloud, “Lord, help us all to have right actions and attitudes when it comes to jealousy this week and always.”
Watch Out for Jealousy!

What does God think of jealousy? Find out by reading these verses from the Book of James. Then answer the student’s questions.

James 3:14-16; 4:1-3, 7-8

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

James 3:14-16; 4:1-3, 7-8

Where does jealousy come from?

What do jealous feelings lead to?

What is the best way to get rid of jealousy?

A Verse to Remember

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. James 3:16
If you find jealousy creeping into your thoughts, “zap” it out God’s way. Complete the instructions. The Bible verses will help you.

JEALOUSY ZAPPER

1. I can admit to myself and God that I am sometimes _______________________. (Jeremiah 17:9-10)

2. I can talk to __________________ about the way I feel. (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)

3. I can __________________ God to do what is best for me. (Psalm 37:5)

4. I can ask God to help me be ________________ with what He has given me. (Hebrews 13:5)

Do you have jealous feelings toward someone? Talk to the Lord about them and ask Him to help you “zap” out that wrong attitude. If you don’t get rid of jealousy when it begins, it can grow bigger and more harmful until it makes your life miserable. Take care of it now!
Sarah leaned against the stall door, peering in at the baby kittens. Her lacy blue dress hugged her legs as a warm breeze blew through the barn door.

continued on page 2
The satin ribbon, tied around her waist, danced behind her with each gust of wind.

Ignoring the call of her name from the farmhouse, Sarah continued to watch the kittens crawl along their mother. She smiled as one of the kittens rolled onto its side and into the hay. Patches, the mother cat, picked up her fallen baby, returning it to her side.

“You’re such a good mommy, Patches,” Sarah praised. Sarah could still picture the day, three years ago, when her father had given her Patches as he told her about her mother’s illness. Patches had been her best friend ever since.

After her mom died, Sarah and her dad had come to live on her grandmother’s farm. Sarah loved the farm and living with Daddy and Grandma. She loved the pastures and the fields of waving wheat. She didn’t want anything to change. But today, her father was getting married again.

A large shadow fell across the kittens, as Sarah’s grandmother stood at the doorway. “Come, Sarah, wedding bells ring. We have to hurry or we’ll be late to the church.” Sarah continued to focus on the kittens, never turning to face her grandmother. She had feared this moment for months. Tears flooded her eyes.

“I’m not going,” Sarah quickly answered. Her grandmother was silent. “I don’t want Daddy to marry Maggie, and I’m not going.” Sarah tried to focus all her attention on a tan kitten as it crawled along the hay.

“Sarah, why would you say such a thing?” Her grandmother’s voice remained calm and kind.

“If Daddy gets married, then he’ll love Maggie and he’ll stop loving me. Everything will be different.”

The shadow from the door grew smaller as her grandmother came closer to her side. “They sure are wonderful, aren’t they?” Grandma said, smiling at the tiny kittens.

“Yeah.” Sarah sniffed as she wiped the tears from her cheeks. “So, which one do you love most?” Grandma asked.

“Oh, I love them all, Grandma. I couldn’t pick just one.” Sarah folded her arms as she gazed at the lively brood.

“Really? You love them all?” They were both silent again as the kittens continued to climb on one another. “Do you remember what Pastor Lang told us about Jesus in his sermon last Sunday, Sarah?”

Sarah shrugged her shoulders again, as she listened to her grandmother’s gentle voice.

“He told us how Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins. Pretty wonderful, don’t you think? He didn’t just die for you and me. He’ll save all who put their trust in Him—your friends at school, people on the street, and even the tiny babies who haven’t been born yet. Do you know why He did this?”

Sarah shrugged her shoulders again, as she listened to her grandmother’s gentle voice.

“He did it because He loves us—every one of us. And Jesus can give every believer enough love inside to love everyone too. We just have to trust Him.”

“Do you really think so, Grandma?” Sarah replied.

“Yes, I do. That’s how I know you really do love all of those kittens. And that’s how I know your daddy won’t love you any less, even when he’s married to Maggie. He has more than enough love for you and

continued from page 1

continued on page 4
When we are jealous of someone, we spend so much time wanting to be like that person or wanting what that person has, we forget to enjoy what we have already! Our Password reminds us that jealousy confuses us and causes us to do wrong. Are you jealous of someone?

On a large piece of paper, draw your face with an unhappy expression. Color it light green. Think of someone you have been jealous of. Share your picture with a friend and explain how jealousy affects us. Ask your friend to pray for you. Read James 3:16 together.

CURES FOR JEALOUSY

When jealousy begins attacking you, try remembering all the good things the Lord has given you. Here are some verses to remind you each day why you don’t need to envy others.

MONDAY: Psalm 37:4
TUESDAY: Psalm 118:24
WEDNESDAY: Psalm 23:1
THURSDAY: Psalm 84:11
FRIDAY: Psalm 16:11
SATURDAY: Psalm 68:19

Find the Key

Follow the broken lines to each letter that belongs on the space above it. You will find the key to having a servant’s heart.

Answer: Serve the Lord with gladness.
Maggie—and me too! And you have lots of love to give, Sarah. You can love your mom and dad and me and all of those kittens—and even Maggie—and still not even begin to use up the love inside of you.” Grandma reached down and gave Sarah a big hug with a little squeeze at the end. She always gave her a little squeeze at the end.

Gently resting her hands on Sarah’s shoulders, her grandmother smiled at her. “Yes, it’s all about trusting Jesus to help you love, Sarah,” Grandma said. “And Maggie has a whole lot of Jesus’ love in her. She’s just waiting for you to be willing to receive it, Dear.”

“Everything okay in here?” A deep voice startled them as Sarah’s father entered the doorway. Sarah gave her grandmother a hug and ran to her father, jumping into his arms.

“Yes, Daddy, I think everything is just fine,” Sarah said, kissing his cheek. “We’d better hurry. Maggie’s waiting for us.”

I wish I could climb trees like Susie squirrel!
I wish I could run fast like Hoppity hare!
I wish I could fly like Darla duck.
I wish I could swim like Tommy turtle!

DON’T BE ENVIOUS OF OTHERS: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS! Read Philippians 4:11

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Enough Love to Go Around

continued from page 2

By Norm Lynch

DON’T BE ENVIOUS OF OTHERS: COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS! Read Philippians 4:11
Teaching Guide

The Teaching Guide includes 13 biblically accurate lessons, periodic mission projects and stories, enrichment ideas, worship ideas, teacher training, suggestions for how to lead a child to faith in Christ, and teacher devotionals.

One per teacher recommended.

Teaching Resources

Supplement the effectiveness of your lessons with games, puzzles, prayer cards, Bible-art posters, a reproducible sheet of memory verses in NIV and KJV versions, and more.

One per class recommended.

Bible Promises

Designed for in-class learning, each lesson has activities such as Bible research, word searches, memory verses (KJV), holiday projects, and songs. Includes a “My Decision” page to record a student’s decision to receive Christ.

One per student recommended.

Counselor

These weekly papers of nonfiction and fiction stories, puzzles, word searches, and suggestions for family activities will encourage student and parent interaction during the week so that Bible learning translates to daily living.

One per student recommended.