

Small Group Guide

Week of March 3, 2024

Speaker: Mark Delaney

Burning the Bridge of Jealousy



Icebreaker



- What's your favorite motivational song to pump you up? Sing or hum a few lines for us!
- If you could instantly become an expert in any hobby or skill, what would you choose?



Discussion



- Comparison isn't the problem - it's envy and pride that are dangerous. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Have you ever caught yourself feeling envious of someone else's talents, possessions, or status? What was that like?
- Read 1 Samuel 18:6-9. Why do you think Saul became so angry and jealous when the people sang songs praising David more?
- The sermon talks about the difference between living for "success" versus living for "significance." Which do you think you focus on more right now? How might your focus shift to find more significance?
- Success tends to shift our focus off of God and onto ourselves or others. How can we keep God at the center instead of obsessing over others' approval and recognition?
- Share about a time when you achieved something you thought would feel amazing but it actually felt unfulfilling. Have you experienced that with success?
- How can we live more open-handed lives instead of clinging tightly to possessions and status? What holds us back?



Thought for the Group



In the sermon, we learned that comparison isn't inherently bad - it's when envy and pride sneak in that it becomes dangerous. King Saul's story shows how success can shift our focus off of God and onto chasing people's approval and recognition.

Saul became jealous when people praised David more than him, even though Israel was thriving under both of their leadership, Saul got caught up in competition thinking "What more can David get but the kingdom?" His identity and security were tied to being the best and most praised.

This reveals the difference between living for "success" versus "significance." Success focuses on self: "Will this impress people?"

While significance focuses on service: "Will this honor God?"

Envy and pride are sneaky traps we all face. But remembering our identity and security come from God alone frees us to celebrate others' successes. When we go all in for Christ, seeking an eternal legacy rather than temporary fame, we'll experience the satisfaction that can only come from a life of significance.

The key is taking time for self-reflection, regularly recentering your mind on Christ, and putting into practice His counter-cultural ways of giving rather than grasping. Be patient with yourself in this process - it's challenging but so worthwhile! God wants to free us from the traps of envy and pride as we walk in the security of His love.



Next Steps



- Get honest. Take some time this week to prayerfully examine your heart and ask God to reveal any areas where envy, pride or unhealthy comparison may be lurking. Journal about times when you've felt jealous or threatened by others' success.
- Live generously. Look for opportunities to celebrate and serve others without expecting anything in return. Share a compliment, give a gift, volunteer your time.