

Kingslayer Series: Envy - Small Group Study Guide

Series Summary

Just like the FBI and CIA scan for threats to national security, we need to be on high alert for threats in our own lives. Spiritually, what we're up against isn't always visible. Enemy tactics are subtle, strategic, and deadly. In this four week series, we'll dig into the lives of several biblical kings who were taken out—not by an external force, but from the inside out. Pride. Envy. Disobedience. These silent assassins slipped past their defenses and left destruction in their wake. Join us as we expose these threats and learn how to guard our hearts, stay alert, and win the battle against these "Kingslayers."

Sermon Summary

This week's message explores how envy destroyed King Saul and continues to threaten believers today. Unlike other sins that may start with pleasure, envy begins bad and stays bad—it's defined as "resenting God's goodness in other people's lives while ignoring His goodness in mine." Through Saul's tragic story, we see how envy ruins health, realigns priorities, ravages relationships, and routes us toward destructive paths. The antidote involves resisting comparisons, responding with love, and reflecting on God's goodness through practiced gratitude.

Icebreaker Question

What's one thing you've been genuinely excited about for someone else recently (a promotion, achievement, good news, etc.)? What made it easy or hard to celebrate with them?

Discussion Questions

1. **The Evil Eye:** Mike's message defined envy as "an evil eye" that begins in what we see (See [Matthew 6:22-23](#)). How does social media specifically fuel envy in our culture? Share practical strategies you might use for protecting your heart when scrolling through others' highlight reels.
2. **Saul's Downfall:** Read [1 Samuel 18:6-9](#). Saul went from celebrating David's victory to plotting his destruction after hearing one song. What does this reveal about how quickly envy can take root? Can you think of a time when your attitude toward someone shifted

based on their success or recognition? What need in your life makes you vulnerable to that?

3. **The Health Connection:** [Proverbs 14:30](#) says "envy rots the bones." How have you seen envy affect someone's physical or emotional health? What's the connection between contentment and overall wellbeing?
4. **Relationship Wreckage:** The sermon mentions how envy leads to "plastic praise, mean motives, and condescending compliments." Which of these do you struggle with most? How can we discipline our speech so that [Romans 12:15](#) becomes a habit that enables us to "rejoice with those who rejoice"?
5. **Practicing Gratitude:** Paul says in [Philippians 4:12-13](#) that he "learned" contentment. When were you most content in your life? What could you learn from that time that you could practice in this season of your life? Could regularly serving others in some practical way impact the development of gratitude and contentment in your life? If so, how, and if so, when?

Prayer Requests

- **Wisdom to recognize envy:** Ask God to help group members identify envy in their hearts before it takes root and grows destructive.
- **Grace to celebrate others:** Pray for the Holy Spirit's power to genuinely rejoice when good things happen to others, especially those in similar circumstances, especially in your group.
- **Contentment in God's goodness:** Request that each person would develop eyes to see and appreciate the specific blessings God has given them personally.
- **Healing from comparison wounds:** Take some time to affirm the contribution and character of people in your group by thanking God for each other in prayer.