

DISCUSSION GUIDE

HOW TO ESCAPE THE TRAP OF ENVY
The Gospel of John — Week 12

ICEBREAKER: If you have to be stuck in an elevator, which two people do you want to be stuck with and why?

OVERVIEW: Envy is one of the seven deadly sins. It plagues both Christians and non-Christians, the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick. Envy will not only make you miserable, but it can destroy your relationships and even lead to more serious sins. Envy was the cause of the first murder in human history. It was the driving force behind the crucifixion of Jesus. And it is the hidden motive of communism and socialism, which led to the deaths of 100 million people in the twentieth century. If you do not kill the envy in your heart, it will destroy you. In this study we are going deeper with the remedy to envy.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read John 3:22-30. Are you surprised by the behavior of John the Baptist's disciples? Why?
3. What is so astonishing about John the Baptist's behavior?
4. What is envy?

5. Why is envy so dangerous?
6. The Italian scholar and poet Petrarch wrote, "Five enemies of peace inhabit with us – avarice, ambition, envy, anger, and pride; if these were to be banished, we should infallibly enjoy perpetual peace." How does envy affect your level of inner peace?
7. Have you ever struggled with envy? Explain.
8. Why do people envy one another? How should we treat each other instead of envy?
9. Why didn't John the Baptist envy Jesus?
10. What can we learn from the example of John the Baptist about escaping envy in our own lives?

The Last Word: "Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another." Galatians 5:26