

Envy



Precious Promises

Devotional Guide

Day 1

Promise #111

Bible Story (1 Kings 21:1-20)

King Ahab ruled in Israel, and his palace stood next to a vineyard owned by Naboth. Ahab looked at his neighbor's vineyard and wanted it for himself. He said, "Give me your vineyard for a garden. I'll pay you or give you a better one."

But Naboth answered, "The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." God's law said family land must remain with them (Numbers 36:7). Naboth was obeying God by keeping his vineyard.

Ahab went home angry and sulking because he couldn't have what he wanted. He lay on his bed, turned his face away, and refused to eat. Instead of being thankful for all God had given him as king, he set his heart on something that belonged to his neighbor.

When Queen Jezebel saw him, she mocked his pouting. Then she made an evil plan. False witnesses accused Naboth, and he was killed. Ahab took the vineyard, but it came through sin and bloodshed.

This story shows the danger of envy and covetousness. Ahab's eyes were fixed on his neighbor's vineyard instead of God's Word. That's why the psalmist prayed, "Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things."

Today's Promise (#111)

Psalm 119:36-37 (NKJV)

"Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way."

Apply the Promise!

This promise reminds you to love God's Word more than the things you might want but don't need. Instead of fixing your eyes on what belongs to others, you can turn your heart toward God's ways.

Real-Life Example:

Ethan's neighbor just got a massive new trampoline with a built-in basketball hoop. Every time Ethan looked out his window, he saw his friends jumping and having the best time. Even though Ethan had a great bike and plenty of toys of his own, they suddenly felt boring and old. He found himself standing by the fence, feeling sour inside because he didn't have the "best" thing on the block.

At dinner, Ethan was so focused on what he didn't have that he barely noticed his favorite meal was on the table. He was "sulking" just like King Ahab in the story. His dad noticed and said, "Ethan, your eyes are stuck on the neighbor's yard. When we stare at what others have, we go blind to the blessings God put right in front of us."

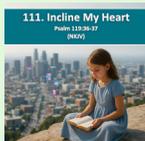
Ethan realized that his envy was stealing his joy. He decided to stop looking over the fence and instead asked his brother to go for a bike ride. As he felt the wind on his face, he realized his bike was actually pretty fast. He prayed and asked God to help him "turn his eyes" away from the trampoline and back toward being thankful for his own life.

Discussion Questions:

- Why was Ahab unhappy even though he already had so much as king? What does this show about envy?
- Ethan's "eyes were stuck" on his neighbor's yard. What is something you sometimes look at that makes you feel "sour" inside?

Activity:

Have children stand and face you. Call out "worthless things" (like wanting a friend's toy) and "God's way" (like kindness or sharing). When you say a "worthless thing," children must quickly turn their backs to you. When you say "God's way," they jump back to face you.



 Listen to
Scripture Song:

<https://precious-promises.com/111>



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Devotional Guide

Day 2

Promise #112

Bible Story (Genesis 37:1-28)

Joseph was Jacob's favorite son, and his father gave him a special coat of many colors. His brothers saw the love Jacob showed Joseph and grew jealous. Their envy turned to anger when Joseph shared dreams that seemed to place him above them.

One day, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers in the fields. When they saw him coming, their envy boiled over. They plotted against him, saying, "Here comes the dreamer." At first, they wanted to kill him, but the oldest brother, Reuben, convinced them not to. Instead, they threw Joseph into a pit.

Soon a caravan of traders passed by. Judah suggested they sell Joseph instead of harming him. So they pulled him from the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver. The brothers' envy had led them to betray their own brother. Joseph was taken away to Egypt, while they went home with guilty hearts.

Their jealousy had destroyed their peace and brought terrible pain to their family. Joseph's brothers chose envy instead of love, and it brought sorrow for years to come.

Today's Promise (#112)

Proverbs 14:30 (KJV)

"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."

Proverbs 23:17 (KJV)

"Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long."

Proverbs 27:4 (KJV)

"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?"

Apply the Promise!

Envy makes your heart sick, but God gives peace when you are thankful and trust Him instead of comparing yourself to others.

Real-Life Example:

Rachel's cousin got the exact dollhouse Rachel had been dreaming of for months. As Rachel looked at the tiny furniture and lights, she felt a "sour" feeling in her chest. Even though Rachel had lovely toys at home, they suddenly felt boring because they weren't as new as the dollhouse. She found herself sitting in the corner, wishing she could just take the toy home for herself.

Rachel's mom noticed she was quiet and said, "Envy is like a weed that chokes your happiness. It makes your heart feel sick because you're looking at what others have instead of what God gave you." Rachel realized her jealousy was making her feel "rotten" inside, just like the Bible says. She didn't want to be a person who was unhappy just because someone else was blessed.

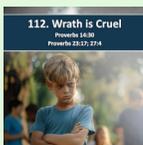
She prayed and asked God to help her be truly glad for her cousin. Rachel even wrote a note saying she was happy they could play together. Once she stopped comparing herself and chose to be kind, the heavy, sick feeling went away. She spent the rest of the afternoon laughing and playing, feeling peaceful and thankful again.

Discussion Questions:

- What did Joseph's brothers do to him because they were jealous of his special coat?
- When you feel jealous of something a friend has, what is one thing you can do to change your heart?

Activity:

Give everyone one minute to find one item in the room that represents something they are thankful for. Once everyone is back in the circle, take turns holding up your item and saying, "I am content with what God has given me!" This helps shift the focus from what we don't have to the blessings we have.



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Devotional Guide

Day 3

Promise #113

Bible Story (2 Kings 5:1-27)

Naaman was the commander of Syria's army. He was very powerful, but he had leprosy, a terrible skin disease. One of his servants told him about God's prophet Elisha, who could help. Naaman traveled to Israel, obeyed God's command to wash in the Jordan River, and was healed completely.

Grateful, Naaman came back to thank Elisha. He offered him silver, gold, and beautiful clothes. But Elisha refused, saying God's power and healing could never be bought with money. He wanted Naaman to know the gift came from God alone.

Elisha's servant Gehazi watched this happen. He allowed envy and covetousness to grow in his heart. In other words, he became jealous and wanted the treasures for himself. Instead of being thankful, he ran after Naaman and lied, saying Elisha needed silver and clothes for visitors. Naaman believed him and gave the gifts. Gehazi hid them at home.

When Gehazi returned, Elisha asked, "Where have you been?" Gehazi lied again, but Elisha already knew. He realized that Gehazi's envy and greed had led him to sin. As a punishment, Naaman's leprosy would cling to Gehazi and his descendants.

Because of envy, Gehazi lost his honesty, his peace, and even his health. His story warns us that life is not about possessions, but about trusting God and being content with what He gives.

Today's Promise (#113)

Luke 12:15 (KJV)

"And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Apply the Promise!

Jesus said life isn't measured by possessions. Envy makes you think you need more to be happy, but God promises real joy when you trust Him and are thankful.

Real-Life Example:

Daniel was excited to show his friends the new remote-control car he had saved for. But at the park, he saw that his friend Leo had a much bigger truck that could go through water. Suddenly, Daniel's car felt "cheap" and he didn't even want to play anymore. He felt a sting of envy, thinking he needed something better to be happy. He felt a grumbling spirit growing inside of him that made him want to say something mean about Leo's truck.

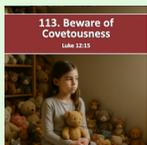
Watching Leo, Daniel remembered that Gehazi was so focused on "getting more" that he lost his peace. Daniel knew he couldn't stop feeling "rotten" on his own, so he breathed a quick prayer: "Lord, please change my heart and help me be thankful." As he prayed, he felt God's quiet peace replace the sourness in his chest. He realized that life isn't about having the biggest toy, but about the joy God provides. He asked Leo, "Do you want to race?" By relying on God's strength to turn away from envy, Daniel saved his afternoon and his friendship.

Discussion Questions:

- Gehazi thought having more things would make him happy, but what did he actually lose because of his envy?
- When Daniel felt that "sting of envy," why was it better for him to pray than to just try to be happy on his own?

Activity:

Pretend a friend brags about something fun they did or a new item they received. First, act out a jealous response—crossed arms or unkind words. Then, practice a good response: "That's nice! I'm glad you had a good time." Talk about how choosing kind words brings peace.



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Devotional Guide

Day 4

Promise #114

Bible Story (Numbers 16)

The Israelites had traveled far from Egypt, and God had chosen Moses to lead them, with Aaron as the high priest. But not everyone was content with the role God gave them.

Korah gathered 250 leaders to challenge Moses and Aaron. They were jealous and thought, "Why should Moses and Aaron have the most important jobs? Aren't we just as good as them?" Their envy turned into strife, and they spoke against God's leaders.

Moses told the people to bring their censers—their firepans for worship—and let God show whom He had chosen. The next day, God's glory appeared, proving clearly that Moses was His chosen leader. Moses warned everyone to step away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Suddenly, the ground opened and swallowed them alive, and fire consumed the 250 men who had joined them.

The people learned that envy and strife bring destruction. Korah and his followers wanted honor, but they were fighting against God's plan. Their story shows that bitter envy only brings trouble.

Today's Promise (#114)

James 3:14–15 (KJV)

"If ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish."

1 Corinthians 13:4 (KJV)

"...[Love] envieth not..."

1 Peter 2:1, 3 (KJV)

"[Lay] aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings...If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Apply the Promise!

Bitter envy brings confusion and strife—that means lots of arguments, problems, and fighting. But love never envies. If you have tasted the Lord's goodness, you can lay aside jealousy and anger and live with peace in your heart.

Real-Life Example:

Haley always wanted to be the best at everything in her class. One day, her teacher praised Emily for doing a beautiful science project. Everyone clapped, but Haley felt her face grow hot with a bitter, jealous feeling. Instead of being happy for Emily, she muttered, "It's not even that good," and refused to clap. At lunch, she even tried to stir up strife by complaining about Emily to her other friends, but it only made Haley feel more miserable and alone.

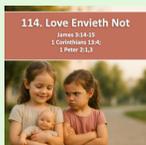
That evening, Haley's dad reminded her that when we know how good God is to us, we don't have to fight for attention. Haley realized she couldn't stop being jealous on her own, so she prayed: "Lord, I've been bitter. Please take this envy away and help me taste Your goodness instead." As she prayed, the "sour" feeling in her heart began to melt away. The next morning, she didn't feel like she was competing anymore. She walked up to Emily and said, "Your project really was great." Peace returned to her heart because she let God change her spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- In the Bible story, what happened to the ground when the people refused to follow the leader God had chosen?
- Haley's father told her that knowing God's "goodness" would help her stop being jealous. What are some of the good things God has given you lately?

Activity:

Put a tiny bit of something bitter (like cocoa powder or lemon) on a spoon and something sweet (like honey or sugar) on another. Let everyone try a tiny taste. Discuss how envy makes our hearts "bitter" and grumpy, while God's peace makes our lives "sweet" and kind to others.



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Devotional Guide

Day 5

Promise #115

Bible Story (1 Samuel 18:6-12)

David was a young man who loved God with all his heart. He was brought to the palace to play his harp for King Saul and to serve in the king's army. Because David trusted God, he was successful and brave in everything he did. As David and the soldiers returned from a great victory, the women of the cities came out singing and dancing with joy. They shouted, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"

When King Saul heard these words, his heart turned sour. Instead of being thankful that David was helping protect Israel, Saul became very angry. "They have given David ten thousands, but to me only thousands," he grumbled. From that day on, Saul watched David with a jealous eye, looking for any reason to find fault with him. He allowed his thoughts to be filled with "what-ifs" and comparisons until he could no longer see David as a friend. The very next day, while David was peacefully playing his harp to comfort the king, Saul became so overwhelmed by envy and a dark spirit that he threw a spear at David, trying to pin him to the wall. David escaped, but the story shows us that envy can turn a friend into an enemy. While Saul was miserable and afraid, David stayed peaceful because he relied on God's wisdom, which is pure, gentle, and full of mercy. Even when things became difficult at the palace, David continued to behave wisely because his strength came from the Lord.

Today's Promise (#115)

James 3:16–18 (NKJV)

"For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace."

Apply the Promise!

Envy brings confusion, anger, and hurt. God's wisdom is different—it is pure, gentle, and full of mercy. When you choose God's way, you can live with peace toward others.

Real-Life Example:

Lily loved to draw, and she always showed her pictures proudly to her family. One afternoon, her little brother drew a picture, and everyone said, "Wow, that's really good!" Lily crossed her arms and frowned. She felt jealous that her brother was getting all the attention.

Mom noticed Lily's sad face and took her aside. She read from the Bible, explaining that when envy fills our hearts, it only brings trouble. But God's wisdom is pure, gentle, and peaceable. "Love doesn't envy," Mom said softly. "When we've tasted God's goodness, we can be glad for others instead of upset."

Lily thought about it and asked God to help her. She went back and told her brother, "I like your drawing." Her jealousy melted away, and peace returned. She learned that God's Word helps us trade envy for kindness.

Discussion Questions:

- What instrument was David playing for the king when Saul tried to hurt him with a spear?
- The women sang that David had done more than Saul. Why is it so hard to hear someone else get "more credit" than we do?

Activity:

Have one child stand in the middle and do something simple (like a jumping jack or a silly dance). Everyone else has to "rejoice" by clapping and shouting one specific nice thing (like "Great job!" or "You're fast!"). Switch until everyone has been cheered for. This makes "rejoicing with others" a loud, fun habit.



 Listen to
Scripture Song:

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111. Psalm 119:36-37 (NKJV)

³⁶Incline my heart
to Your testimonies,
and not to covetousness.

³⁷Turn away my eyes
from looking at worthless things,
And revive me in Your way.

 Listen to
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112. Proverbs 14:30 Proverbs 23:17; 27:4

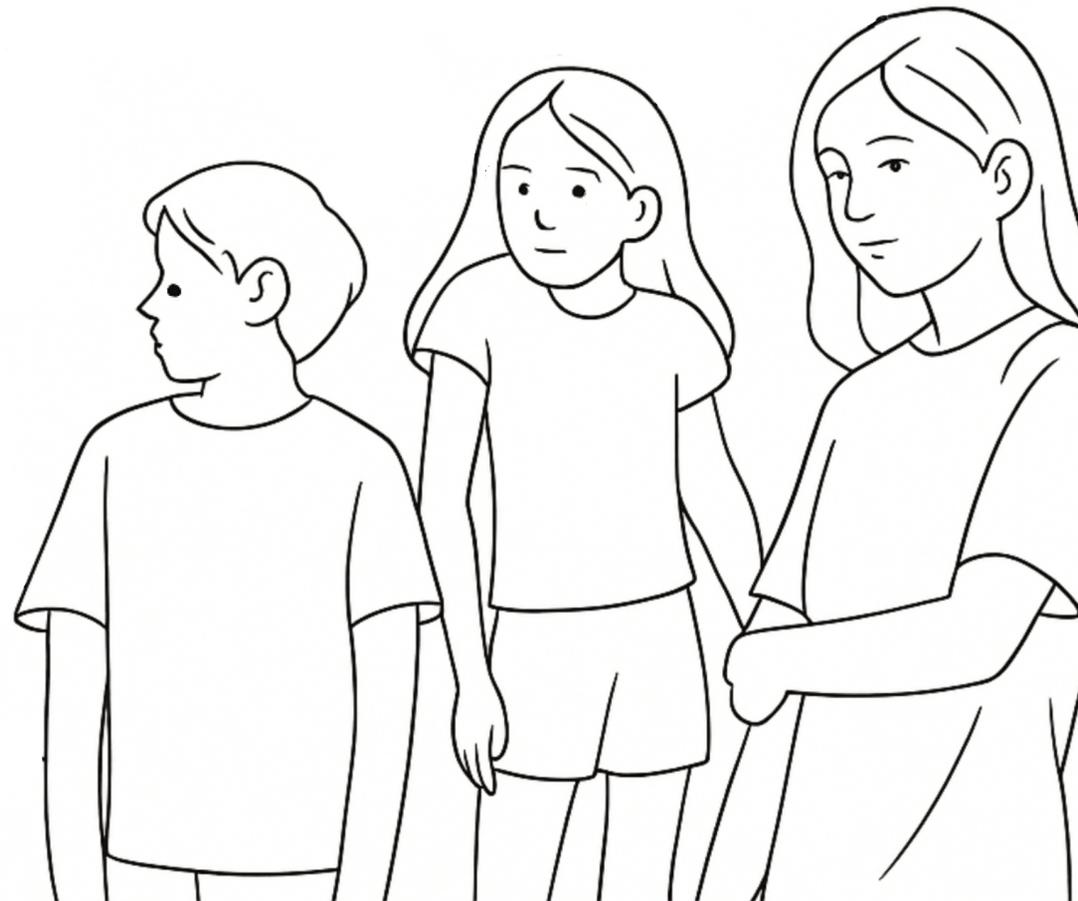
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³⁰A sound heart is the life of the flesh:
but envy the rottenness of the bones.

¹⁷Let not thine heart envy sinners:
but be thou in the fear of the LORD
all...day long.

⁴Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous;
but who is able to stand before envy?





113. Luke 12:15

¹⁵And He said unto them,
Take heed,
and beware of covetousness:
for a man's life consisteth not
in the abundance of the things
which he possesseth.

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114. James 3:14-15

1 Corinthians 13:4

1 Peter 2:1,3

¹⁴If ye have bitter envying
and strife in your hearts,
glory not,
and lie not against the truth.

¹⁵This wisdom descendeth
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but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

⁴[Love] envieth not.

¹[Lay] aside all malice,
and all guile,
and hypocrisies, and envies,
and all evil speakings,

³If so be ye have tasted
that the Lord is gracious.

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115. James 3:16-18 (NKJV)

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**¹⁶For where envy
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**¹⁷But the wisdom
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