

When we are jealous of another, what does that jealousy reveal about what we believe about God?

What do you think Jesus would say to the jealous person?

Why is the gospel the only ultimate answer for the problem of jealousy?  
(e.g. James 3:14, 1 Corinthians 3:3, 13:4, Galatians 5: 22-23)

What are the areas in your life in which you can easily become jealous?

How can you guard against jealousy in those areas?

How specifically might you remind yourself of the goodness of God in your life this week in order to build a heart of gratitude? Why might serving at our church or in the community help to guard against jealousy?

Who is one person you are tempted to be jealous of who you can actively pray for this week? Why might doing so guard you against jealousy?

#### **Pray**

Pray by thanking God for the gifts that He has given us. Pray that God would help us to be content with what we have and not be jealous of the blessings He has given to others. Pray that your group would be characterized by humility and by service to others.



# **After God's Own Heart -DAVID-**

**Growth Group Study Guide  
Week 5**

**11 June 2023**

**"Spiritual Self-Destruction"**

**1 Samuel 18: 1-16**

#### **Series Overview:**

Over seven weeks, we will study and reflect on a central character in the Old Testament; David. We will look at events leading up to his birth, as well as his development and faith in God. Our prayer is that we will grow closer to God through viewing the life of God's servant and friend called David; a man after God's own heart.

## Introduction

How would you define jealousy?

Describe a time in your life when you were jealous of someone else. What does it feel like to be jealous?

What were the consequences of your jealousy? What do you think motivates us to jealousy?

At the core, jealousy is a sense of entitlement; it is motivated by a belief that we deserve something better than what we have. This attitude not only displays a lack of gratitude, it also is a challenge to the wisdom and provision of God. We can see how jealousy can turn a person to extreme choices in the life of Saul in 1 Samuel 18 and 19.

## Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5

How would you describe the relationship between David and Saul based on these verses?

What was David's role in Saul's kingdom? How should Saul have felt about David's success?

It seems David and Saul had a good working relationship. David was a good commander and fighter, as well as best friends with Saul's son, Jonathan. Saul was initially pleased with David; David was not only loyal but also successful for the sake of Saul's kingdom. But soon his attitude toward David soured.

## Read 1 Samuel 18: 6-16

How were David and Saul received when they returned home from the war with the Philistines?

Put yourself in Saul's place. How would you have felt during this celebration?

Have you ever been in a similar situation? When one of your co-workers or friends received greater praise than you? How did you handle those feelings of jealousy?

Why do you think Saul became so fixated on David from this point forward?

Why does jealousy of another tend to make us fixated on what another person has or does?

Upon returning home from battle, the women offered their customary songs praising the men for their battles. Saul was praised for killing his thousands and David was praised for killing his ten thousands. Saul was jealous of David's praise, and it drove him mad. His jealousy caused Saul to ignore the blessing that David was to his kingdom and focus on his level of popularity.