



Jealous

MAIN IDEA

- God will not share His glory, or the honor and praise He deserves.

MEMORY VERSES

(Choose one)

I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.
—Isaiah 42:8

...for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.—Exodus 34:14

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Exodus 34:14
- 2) 1 Samuel 5:2-5
- 3) Isaiah 42:8
- 4) Matthew 10:37



LESSON SUMMARY

In contemporary culture, the word “jealous” usually carries a negative connotation and is associated with envy. However, there is another way to define “jealous.” Jealousy can be defined as being intolerant of unfaithfulness and protecting one's own honor. For example, God will not share His greatness and worth (His glory) or the praise that He deserves with anything or anyone else. Why? Because God is preeminent. He alone is worthy of our deepest devotion and highest praise. He will not settle for anything else.

To help the children grasp this important concept, we began the lesson by having a contest in which the teacher stole the first place prize from the rightful winner. This evoked displeasure from the children—“That's not right! The winner should get the prize.” We then presented them with the story of the Ark of the Covenant in the temple of the idol Dagon. Why did the idol keep falling down in the presence of the Ark? Because God is jealous, He will protect and guard His glory so that no one can take first place from Him. It will never be okay for us to treat other things or people as if they are better or greater than God. And finally, because God is jealous, He will protect and guard all who worship and praise Him—His people.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *that the truths presented in this lesson will sink deeply into the mind and heart of your child.*
- *for the Holy Spirit to reveal any idols in the heart and bring true repentance. May God have "first place" in all things.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Talk about how you might feel if you had won first place in a contest but someone else “stole” the prize and received the praise and cheering instead of you. Now think about God and how deserving He is to be seen and recognized as being millions and millions of times better and greater than anything or anyone else. **If you can feel the “wrongness” of someone stealing first place over a little contest, how much more should you feel it wrong for someone or something to be honored and praised more than God? Do you always honor and praise God as being greater than**

anyone or anything else? Is that okay with God? Why not? Review Exodus 34:14.

- Briefly explain that there are places in the world in which people still do worship physical idols. **Do you think that people sometimes worship other kinds of things more than they worship God?** [e.g., a sports team, friends, money, toys, etc.] **How would any of those things compare to how great and good God is? Will God share first place with those kinds of things? Why not? How could a person show that he worships**

the one true God? How could you worship God this week and show that He is the best and greatest?

- Read Jesus' words from Matthew 10:37. Explain that as good and right as it is for children to love their parents, and for parents to love their children, Jesus will not share first place in our hearts. Jesus is God, and He is a jealous God. We must love Jesus most of all and give Him the worship and praise He deserves.

ACTION STEP

This week, with your parents' help read Psalm 95:1-7 and 96:1-9. How does the psalmist respond to seeing God in "first place"? What types of special words and expressions does the psalmist use to say, "I think you are the best God!"? How could you follow the psalmist's example this week?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Look up the verses in your Bible and fill in the missing words. Then, write "GOD" in the center of the trophy.

...for you shall _____ no other
god, for the LORD, whose name
is _____,
is a jealous God,
—Exodus 34:14

I am the _____;
that is my name; my
glory I give to _____
other, nor my

to carved idols.—Isaiah 42:8

