

Topic: Proper Humanity – Not Envious (Lesson 110)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “Let us not become vainglorious, provoking one another, envying one another” (Galatians 5:26).

Focus: We should be happy with what we are given and not be envious of others.

Practical Application: Explain what it means to be envious. To envy means to want something that someone else has. Give examples of wanting something that you do not have and feeling envious when you see that your friends have that very item. Discuss with the children what it means to be happy with what you are given.

Intermediate:

Verse: “I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or clothing” (Acts 20:33).

Focus: Envy comes from comparing. When we compare with others, envy rises up.

Practical Application: Discuss with the children what things they already have, such as clothing, a place to live, toys, etc. Ask them what they would like in addition to what they already have. Perhaps they would like a bigger room, a certain toy, or something intangible like certain skills. Wanting more and being envious of others comes from comparing what we have with what someone else has. If your mother gives you a slice of your favorite pie, you are grateful. But how do you feel when you see your brother and sister getting a bigger slice of pie? Are you still grateful? Before you compared you were grateful; after you compared you were envious.

Advanced:

Verse: “For he knew that it was because of envy that they had delivered Him up” (Matthew 27:18).

Focus: Envy is in our heart. Having material things will not stop the envy in our hearts. Envy can cause us to despise those who have the things we want.

Practical Application: Discuss with the children how everyone envies someone else. “Do only poor people envy others?” “Do rich people envy others?” Society is filled with dissatisfied people wanting what others have. Ask them to consider what they envy, from outward, tangible things to inward, intangible things: clothing, electronics, intelligence, athleticism, etc. When we envy someone, we can even wish that that person did not have that thing. Envy can cause people to steal, hate, and be cruel. Therefore, we need to guard our heart from envy by learning to be content with what we have.