

Flirting With Disaster

The Sickness Within ~ Pastor Dre

TALK IT OVER

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

City Group Connect (10-15 min). Spend some time connecting with each other.

- Briefly share how the last week has gone for you.
- Ask each person to share something significant that they have read this past week in God's Word or any word they have heard from God in the past week.
- Where have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others this past week?

Key Scriptures:

*But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice. **James 3:14-16***

Proverbs 3:31; 14:30; 23:17; 27:4

Launch It:

- Name some things that people most envy in others.
- What are some ways that our culture depends on or encourages envy?

Examples: advertisements incite envy so that we will buy their products. Realty TV games promote envy through their competition.

Start Talking.

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- Who or what do you envy?
- In what ways does being envious make you miserable? What "but" do you need to remove? (I'm thankful for my house, but . . .). Share how God has taught you to be content and grateful for who you are and what you have.

Start Thinking.

- To whom do you most often compare yourself? How do you feel when you compare yourself to someone who has more? Less? Are you more tempted to envy what others have, what they can do, or how they look?
- Is it possible to become comfortable with envy? How?
- On a scale of one to ten, (ten being very important), how important is money or possessions to you? How can you guard against placing too much stock in the things of this world?

Start Sharing.

- Are you more likely to rejoice when others prosper or feel envious and jealous? Share a time when you felt envious or jealous of someone's blessing or good fortune? What were some of your thoughts? What lies did you believe? What would it look like for you to celebrate God's goodness to this person?
- Though boundaries will be spoken of specifically in future studies, what could these boundaries look like?
- What are some safeguards you can use this week?

Start Doing.

- In what areas do you need to confront and deal with envy? Make a list of God's eternal blessings. Develop the habit of setting your mind on these things whenever you struggle with being discontent or envious.
- Who do you need to celebrate with? Practice being more empathetic this week and rejoice in the blessings of others.
- Make a gratitude list, adding at least three new things

Start Praying. God, un-soil and purify my heart of complaining and comparing. I pray that I would have eyes to see Your blessings in my life. Help me not to resent but to rejoice in what You do in other's lives. Help me to find contentment in Christ. In Jesus' name, Amen."

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