

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. **-Isaiah 43:4**

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil.

-Ecclesiastes 4:9

Am I now seeking human approval, or God's approval? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still pleasing people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

-Galatians 1:10

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

- 1. Envy is defined as "wanting the very thing that belongs to another."
 - a. Share about a time you wished you could possess the very thing that belonged to another (you weren't just jealous that they had it, but you wished you had it instead).
- 2. How does envy effect our self-worth?
- 3. What does the Bible say about our worth in the Isaiah scripture above?
- 4. Has envy ever ruined a friendship or relationship of yours?
 - a. What does the Ecclesiastes scripture above say about working together, rather than competing against one another?
- 5. Think of the Galatians scripture above. Are you guilty of seeking out the approval of others people?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

Overcoming the vice of envy is a three-step practice:

- 1. We have to learn to see ourselves the way God sees us (Isaiah 43:4).
- 2. We need to start participating in activities where competition is nonexistent (Ecclesiastes 4:9).
- 3. We have to stop seeking the approval of others, and instead seek our selfworth from God (Galatians 1:10).