

Jealousy

Biblical Material: Proverbs 27.4; 1Corinthians 13. 4; James 3. 14, 16

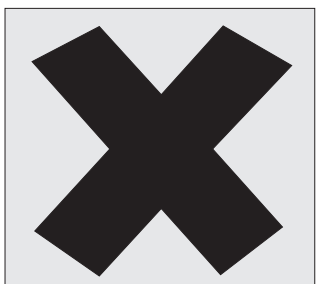
‘Anger is cruel and rage is destructive, but they are nothing compared to jealousy.’

‘Love is not jealous....’

‘Don’t let boasting rise from jealousy and selfishness... for where there is jealousy and selfishness there are all kinds of wrong.’



FLAMMABLE



IRRITANT

You will need:

Danger signs
(provided).

Introduction

Ask pupils what danger signs are for. How many of them could draw a danger or warning sign? It could be a sign warning people that something is harmful to swallow or flammable. The two signs provided can be used. Explain that there are some things in life that are dangerous but they do not all have a danger or warning

sign on them. Jealousy is dangerous. When someone is jealous they are resentful, bitter and envious of someone else. They may be jealous of someone else’s looks, toys, abilities or friends. Explain that today’s story is about jealousy: it is the story of Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37).

Core Material

Joseph had ten older brothers but Joseph was very spoilt. His father, Jacob, gave Joseph a special coat and treated Joseph differently to his brothers. Joseph did not help by telling his brothers about his strange dreams, in which he dreamt that everyone would bow down to him. Joseph obviously felt he was the most important person in the family. Joseph’s behaviour caused his brothers to become jealous. They became so jealous, they plotted to kill him. Reuben, the eldest brother, tried to save Joseph - as did his brother Judah. Reuben had him put in a pit

and planned to rescue him later, but while he was away, Joseph was sold as a slave to some wandering merchants.

This is an extreme example of jealousy. Most people don’t try selling their little brothers or sisters! Jealousy is sometimes felt, even when there is no good cause, but the Biblical advice is to treat it as a dangerous substance. Show the danger signs again and see if the pupils can remember what they warn about.

Jealousy is dangerous because it wrecks friendships and makes people bitter. We can’t always help feeling jealous but we can help how we behave.

Prayer/Reflection

Ask pupils to hold up the danger signs as a focus. The other pupils can look at the signs then think quietly about the dangers of jealousy.

Not every danger in life comes with a warning sign, help us to recognise jealousy and deal with it rather than act upon it.

Note. For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.

