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Discovery

Scripture & Science for Kids



JEALOUSY

Have you ever wanted something that someone else owned? Have you ever wanted that super-cool bicycle, that shiny, beautiful piece of jewelry, or that cute little puppy, but you could not have it because it belonged to someone else? If you have, you might have felt jealous of what that person owned. Even though you might love the bike your friend owns, or really want the

cute puppy that belongs to the boy down the street, you should never hate those people for having things like these. We should not treat others incorrectly or dislike them because of what they have or what they can do.

In the story of Cain and Abel (in Genesis 4), both the brothers gave offerings to the Lord: “Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering” (vs. 4). However, Cain’s offering was not acceptable to God. God did not respect Cain for his offering because Cain’s offering was not given by faith. Cain got very upset. Instead of focusing on being obedient to God, Cain grew very jealous of his brother and killed him. This story shows what jealousy can cause if we allow it to enter and fester in our hearts.

The Bible teaches that we need to love our neighbors as our brothers, and that we should not covet other people’s things. Paul said that those who are jealous and envious will not inherit the kingdom of God (Galatians 5:20-21). Although it is acceptable to like something that someone else owns, we should not want it so badly that we would do anything to get it. This kind of jealousy leads to hatred toward other people. We need to treat others with love and respect, and we should not despise them for what they own. By being happy for those things that we already have in life, we can give all the glory to the One Who created everything—God! What’s more, our godly contentment helps us to be happy for others, instead of jealous of others (read Philippians 4:11-12).



Don't Brag. Be Humble

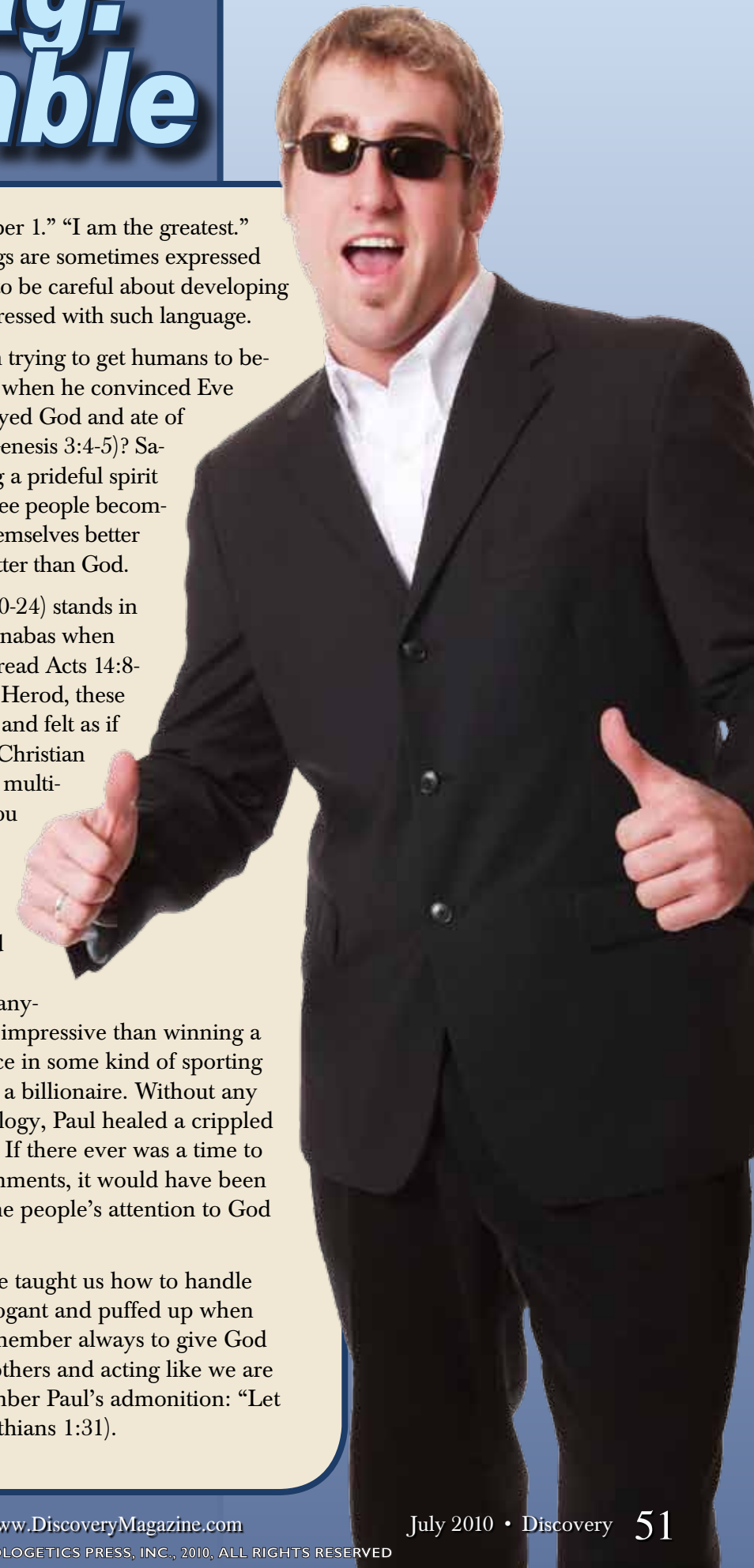
You have heard it all before: “We’re number 1.” “I am the greatest.” “We’re the best ever.” While these sayings are sometimes expressed in a fairly innocent manner, Christians need to be careful about developing the arrogant attitudes that sometimes are expressed with such language.

Since the beginning of time, Satan has been trying to get humans to believe they are unbeatable. Do you remember when he convinced Eve that she would live forever even if she disobeyed God and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:4-5)? Satan wants us to sin against God by developing a prideful spirit instead of a humble one. In fact, he wants to see people becoming so puffed up that they begin thinking of themselves better than those around them, and perhaps even better than God.

King Herod’s prideful spirit (read Acts 12:20-24) stands in direct contrast to the reaction of Paul and Barnabas when people at Lystra attempted to worship them (read Acts 14:8-18). Had they had the same arrogant spirit as Herod, these two preachers would have accepted worship, and felt as if they deserved such honor. But instead, these Christian men “tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you.’”

Paul did an amazing thing in Lystra. By the power of God, he healed a man who had been crippled his whole life. Paul did something on that occasion that neither you, nor anyone else living today, has done. It was more impressive than winning a spelling contest at school, or getting first place in some kind of sporting event. It was more extraordinary than being a billionaire. Without any kind of medicine or modern medical technology, Paul healed a crippled man who never had walked a day in his life. If there ever was a time to brag about one’s good deeds and accomplishments, it would have been at that moment. Instead, Paul tried to turn the people’s attention to God and away from himself.

By their examples, Paul and Barnabas have taught us how to handle praise from men. Rather than becoming arrogant and puffed up when we do something impressive, we need to remember always to give God the glory (2 Peter 3:18). Instead of taunting others and acting like we are better than everyone else, we need to remember Paul’s admonition: “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:31).





Gossip

Young children often play a game called "Gossip." The rules to the game are very simple. Several people get in a circle or a straight line. The person at the beginning of the circle or line thinks of a sentence like, "The red horse fell into the water." That person whispers the sentence into the ear of the person next to him. He cannot repeat the sentence once he whispers it, and he must speak very softly. The next person in line listens carefully and then whispers the sentence she heard into the ear of the person next to her. After the sentence has gone through every person in the line or circle, the last person repeats the sentence as he thinks he heard it.

Almost every time, the sentence at the end of the game is not the same one that was whispered at the beginning. For instance, the last person might have heard something like, "The dead house turned into the otter" instead of the original sentence, "The red horse fell into the water." The game does a good job of showing that words and sentences often can get confused when they are passed from one person to another. In a similar way, gossip often gets passed around so much that the facts get lost. Many times, the end of the "gossip train" is full of false, damaging information.

It is difficult for us to realize all of the heartache and sorrow gossip can cause. Spreading unkind and unnecessary comments about people (whether they are true or false) can destroy friendships, families, and the fellowship we have with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The Bible says that "a whisperer [gossiper] separates

the best of friends" (Proverbs 16:28). In 1 Timothy 5:13, Paul wrote about the widows who practiced gossiping, saying: "And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not." If we are not careful, we may find ourselves guilty of this same kind of wrongdoing. Keep in mind the words of the wise man: "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit" (Proverbs 15:4).

"If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this one's religion is useless" (James 1:26).



ANGRY WORDS

Talking about people behind their backs is not a kind thing to do (read 2 Corinthians 12:20). Nothing good comes from it. Another sinful thing to avoid is to say mean and hateful things to a person's face. You should never make fun of someone. When you make fun of somebody, you need to realize that you are making fun of one of God's creations.

Jesus told us never to say mean things to our fellow Christians, or be angry with them for no reason. During his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said: "I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment" (Matthew 5:22). David was a man of kind words. He said: "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret—it only causes harm" (Psalm 37:8). When we speak mean words out of anger, nothing good comes from it. Also, you cannot teach people about Christ if you are angry all the time, because Jesus taught kindness and love.



The Bible teaches that you can be angry without sinning. Ephesians 4:26 reads: "Be angry and do not sin. Do not let the sun go down on your wrath." Jesus, you may recall, got angry when the people were mocking God by defiling His temple. Jesus was angry, but He did not sin. If you have a problem with somebody, then you need to go to that person, and work things out. When you are angry with someone, calm yourself down and speak peacefully in an attempt to resolve your problems.

If someone is being mean to you or saying bad things about you, do not try to "get even." Just being angry does not solve anything. You can't "out-hate" hate. Hate can be overcome only with love. As Paul told the Romans: "Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21). At times, people will ask you mean questions, trying to get you to argue with them. Don't argue with people who ask such questions. Arguing would be a waste of your time, and it would be displeasing to God. Instead of arguing, answer kindly. Solomon said: "A soft answer turns away wrath. But a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly" (Proverbs 15:1-2).

Talk kindly to those who are your friends, and even those who aren't your friends. You may not enjoy being around everybody, but you can treat everybody you meet with kindness.

ACTIVITY PAGES



J N J U L U C M K O Z X C K T
 E P T P T A I Y J F R K M P Q
 L I B A H C M K F J D A A L E
 U Y J K Y Z E Q Y Q N R J E E
 R A H Q A Z V R X E T B B B Y
 N N T G U S D E O S T V Z A T
 E D W O K Z P V Y W O P R Q I
 D H K A U Q V L J O H E F L L
 L P R P B Z O Y Q B T D I O I
 O J C O N T E N T E D O W H M
 G V Z A S B K T P O R R K O U
 F D Y Z E F N P O V C E P G H
 M U P S B V P G J X I H O H G
 K J E D T F A F L K L O R D
 X X E G O D L T G L Y

1. This apostle wrote that we should give glory to God _____
2. "Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12).

3. The opposite of pride _____
4. Cain became angry with him _____
5. Was eaten with worms _____
6. Paul taught that our boasting should be only in Him _____
7. By the power of God, Paul healed a crippled man in this city _____
8. Paul taught the Romans to overcome evil with this _____
9. Being happy with what you have _____
10. Humans are made in His image _____

SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE



FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. We should always be _____ to our friends.
2. We should love our friends as well as our _____.
3. We should not be _____ of what someone else has.
4. We should love our neighbors as _____.
5. "Whatever you want men to do to _____, do also to them."



TRUE OR FALSE

1. We should be mean to our friends.
2. We should retaliate when someone is mean to us.
3. Being jealous over what a friend has is sinful.
4. You are special because God created you.
5. King Herod was prideful.
6. There are some people God does not care about.
7. We should hate our enemies.
8. Overcome evil with good.
9. Cain was jealous of Abel.
10. A gossip "separates the best of friends."



GOLDEN RULE: "WHATEVER YOU WANT MEN TO DO TO YOU, DO ALSO TO THEM."

Dear Digger Doug,

What is the best way to make up with a friend whom you have hurt by sinning?

Dear Reader,

Thank you for your question! Sometimes it is hard to make up with friends after making them angry. First, you need to make sure that you really are sorry for what you did. If you do not actually believe that what you did was wrong, your apology will be insincere (and probably seen as such). Second, many verses in the Bible, such as 2 Corinthians 12:21 and James 4:16, tell us to be humble. If you are humble when you ask for forgiveness, the result will be a lot better than if you act like you don't care about making your friend angry. Finally, you should go to your friend and let him or her know that you'll try your best to do better in the future.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Love Your Enemies as Yourself

When you are at school or at the park and you see a person with whom you don't get along, what do you do? You stay away from them, don't you? Well, what if they come up to you and push you for no reason? Would you fight back? Or, do you simply walk away and endure the teasing?

In Matthew 5:43-44, Jesus said: "You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them who spitefully use you and persecute you." Jesus said that if someone slaps you on your right cheek, then turn to him the other cheek. That means that if you get hit, you should not just hit the person back. Instead, you should try to walk away. Then, it may or may not (depending on the circumstances) be appropriate to tell someone like a teacher or your parents. If you do not retaliate you will be a stronger person. It takes a strong person to love his enemies, rather than to fight back. Christians are not commanded to "fight fire with fire" (treating your enemies like they treat you). Instead, Jesus taught, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Matthew 7:12).

If someone is mean to you, then you need to be nice to them instead of being mean. Romans 12:20-21 says: "If your enemy is hungry feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink.... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." The best way to rid yourself of an enemy—is to make him your friend.



ANSWERS

TRUE OR FALSE: 1-F; 2-F; 3-T; 4-T; 5-T; 6-F; 7-F; 8-T; 9-T; 10-T.
 FILL IN THE BLANKS: 1. kind; 2. enemies; 3. jealous; 4. ourselves; 5. you.
 SOLVE, FIND, AND CIRCLE: 1. Peter; 2. Golden Rule; 3. Humility; 4. Able; 5. Herod; 6. Lord; 7. Lystra; 8. Good; 9. Content; 10. God.
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