



## MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

### God's Way: Session 11

#### Do Not Covet

**Key Statement:** The tenth commandment reminds us that 1) God forbids coveting, 2) coveting lacks eternal perspective, and 3) contentment comes through the gospel.

#### ::CONNECT::

##### Option 1: Show and Tell

- Break students into groups. Instruct them that they are enrolled in pantomime school. They'll be given a word, and they have to create a scene depicting that word (remember, they're mimes; they're not allowed to talk). They can choose whether they want to create a scene with movement and action, or a still "snapshot").
- The first word is *jealousy*. Give them a few moments to prepare their scene, and then guide them to show it.
- The second word is *contentment*. Give them a few moments to prepare their scene, and then guide them to show it.
- Debrief both scenes afterward. Talk about the depictions of jealousy and connect them to the points in the lesson. How did the scenes show someone who was not looking with an eternal perspective? How did the scenes show someone who was not trusting in God for his or her happiness?
- Likewise, debrief the scenes of contentment. What made the person content? Does this contentment line up with the biblical contentment found only in the Lord, as shown in the third point in our lesson? Explain.

##### Option 2: Odd Mutant Powers...

- Break students into three groups. Each group is going to put on a skit depicting a day in the life of a particular person (let them come up with the name for their person: Joe Cool, Sally Sweetheart, etc.).
  - If your numbers don't allow for group work, you can also have your students draw comic strips of these people.
- These three people all have very odd "mutant powers." In the case of the first person, he/she cannot think more than ten seconds into the future. Regardless of the action or circumstance, there's a mental block that keeps him or her from thinking past ten seconds from now. For the second person, the same thing is

true, except he or she can only think of what consequences his or her actions will have fifty years in the future. He/she can't think of how it will affect him/her in ten minutes or ten years or a hundred years: only in fifty years. For the third person, he/she can *only* think about how his or her actions will have consequences when Jesus returns (assuming that's more than fifty years away!). They're not able to think about earthly consequences: only heavenly ones.

- Note that you can also alter these numbers or add additional people; maybe someone who thinks only ten years into the future, another who thinks a hundred years into the future, etc.
- Guide them to create their “day in the life of” skits and show them to the class.
- Debrief the skits. How were they different? Generally speaking, were the people who thought of the distant future more or less jealous? Content? How would each person react to a temptation to envy?
- Point out that covetousness fails to have an eternal perspective and often is more concerned with the here-and-now than eternity.

#### ::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider only covering points two and three of the lesson.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

#### ::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide