

Topic: God is Jealous (Lesson 30)

Note: The practical applications provided in the lesson are offered as suggestions to help the saints in their preparation. They are not meant to direct or limit the ways in which the focus of the lesson can be applied. The saints are encouraged to pray and contact the Lord to receive His burden and guidance in teaching and applying the lesson. Fellowship with other saints, and inquiring of the children themselves, may also bring out many helpful applications.

Elementary:

Verse: “...for I, Jehovah your God, am a jealous God” (Exodus 20:5).

Focus: We belong to God. For God to be jealous over us is for Him to want us to love only Him as God and no one else. It is also for God to watch over us to guard and protect us so that no one would take us away from Him.

Practical Application: Ask the children to name things that are precious to them. What if there was another child in their neighborhood who broke other children’s toys? Consider asking the children, “If you were playing outside one day with your favorite toy, what would you do when you see that mean child coming towards you? Would you just let the child grab and break your toy? How would this make you feel?” The children will likely be very watchful and protective of their favorite toy and guard it from being damaged; they are being jealous over their toy. God is also very watchful and protective—jealous—over us.

Intermediate:

Verse: “For you shall not worship any other god; for Jehovah, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God” (Exodus 34:14).

Focus: God desires that we would love Him and that we would not be deceived to worship something else. God wants us to love Him the most and to serve and worship only Him.

Practical Application: At school you might have a very special friend whom you like very much. There also might be someone at school who does not like you nor treat you very nicely. How would you feel if that person who didn’t like you tried to take your friend away from you, or tried to turn your friend against you, or even tried to get your friend to do things that you know are wrong? You would be right to be jealous over that friend in wanting to do all that you can to protect him/her from the person who did not have a good intention towards him/her. This is how God is with us.

Advanced:

Verse: “They made Him jealous with strange gods; with abominations they provoked Him to anger” (Deuteronomy 32:16).

Focus: God is jealous over us like the jealousy of a husband over his wife. God cannot tolerate it if our heart is divided or unfaithful. Other gods may rival God in our heart and try to take our heart away from loving God, but it is NOT okay with God if we have other gods. God is like a husband who would not tolerate it if his wife called someone else her husband.

Practical Application: Consider asking the children, “Are we always faithful to God? How about on the Lord’s Day morning when it is time to go to the meeting? Are we happy to go to the meeting to show God that we love Him more than anything else? Or are there other things that we would rather be doing on Lord’s Day morning?” An idol is a false god, but it is not limited to just a statue of a false god or something physical/tangible that we worship. It could be anything in our heart that we love more than God. What are some things that we could love more than God? How do you think God feels about those things?