

## Sermon Questions: Envy

### Genesis 4:1-8

1. Can you think of someone who has a skill, ability, material possession or job that you wish you had?
2. What is the difference between admiring someone and envying someone?
3. Pastor Mark tells the story of Gertrude McFuzz, a bird character in a Dr. Seuss book who is envious of the tailfeathers of another bird. What happens to Gertrude? How does this story illustrate our human tendency to envy?
4. How does envy sometimes lead to bitterness and resentment?
5. Read Genesis 4:1-8. Why do you think God accepts Abel's sacrifice but not Cain's?
6. How does Cain respond when his sacrifice is not accepted?
7. Pastor Mark suggests that we are not likely to murder someone whom we envy, but what might we do to someone we envy?
8. How do marketers use envy to encourage people to buy things?
9. Pastor Mark suggests that when we try to find our identity and value outside of our relationship with God and His call on our lives, we become vulnerable to envy. Do you agree or disagree?
10. Envy can be overcome through practicing the virtue of Gratitude. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What is the difference between being thankful in all circumstances and being thankful for all circumstances?
11. In what ways can Parents model Gratitude for their children? In what ways can Parents help teach their children to express Gratitude to others?
12. Pastor Mark suggests that when you start to envy someone, a good response is to pray to God and thank Him for blessing that person with whatever gift is causing you to envy. How does that help overcome envy with gratitude?
13. Share with the group something you might be taking for granted, that you need to be more thankful for.