



GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: **CRAZY LOVE**

Message: "Ring the Alarm"



PRAYER: God, for grace to walk with you and share in the beauty of your plan for our lives, we give you praise. Abide with us now so that we might ever do your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Share something you did for which somebody else got all the credit. Share it.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Envy is the opposite of love. It is an attitude of the heart. It is excessive desire for something that you do not have. Envy is stirred up by comparing what we want but do not have with what others have. Share with your group a time when you have discovered yourself being envious of somebody else. How did you handle it?
2. Envy is an internal attitude that underlies many external evil acts. Give envy an inch and it will take a mile (sow to the wind and you will reap a whirlwind). Read 1 Corinthians 3:3; 2 Corinthians 12:20. From these letters, we learn that envy causes us to rub shoulders with strife, quarreling, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder. Have you ever seen envy show itself in any of these ways? Where? What was the outcome?
3. Envy overlaps with coveting, excessively wanting what others have. But the hallmark of envy is comparison by which we become acutely aware of the relationship between what others have and what we want but do not have. Like coveting, envying involves being discontent with what we have. It is an excessive desire that is inflamed by a competitive or comparative spirit. Have you ever seen this in action? Share it with your group. How can we combat envy?

CHALLENGE: One of the most important related virtues is that of humility. Put in the form of a prayer this simply means that you say, "*Lord, I submit myself to you. I accept the limits you place on my life in relation to others. I know that you know best. I commit myself to the doing of your will of precept and commandment.*"

SERVE: Focus your desires and wants on Christ and His kingdom righteousness. Seek first and foremost to do His will: that is love. With this heavy-duty obstacle to loving-kindness removed, with envy countered, we can then deeply desire the good of others and go about promoting their good in every way we possibly can. Ask God to help you in this regard this week.

CHAMPION TIP: Take a good look at the group members that God has assembled for you to shepherd and nurture. Give thanks to God for those in your group. Determine not to compare your group with others, but to rejoice in the uniqueness of your particular group.