



Get Out of Your Way

Avoiding the Pity Trap - Part 2

Discussion Guide

Get Out of Your Way is a series focused on removing the biggest obstacle towards success, calling, and purpose...yourself. Often, it is our own mind-set, self-involvement, and envy that holds us back. We get so focused on what we don't have or what others do have that we miss the positive moments and giftings in our lives.

Jump Start

Leader: This section is designed to get discussions started, examine God's truth, and apply it to our week.

1. What was your childhood sibling dynamic? Do you identify with the “typical” oldest, youngest, and middle child tendencies, or are you an only child?
2. **Read [Luke 15:11-24](#)**. What kind of feelings—what mindset—may have led to the younger son asking for his inheritance prematurely? Upon his return, how does the father respond to his plan to become a servant? What does this teach us about how God responds to us when we are broken by our own sin?
3. **Read [James 3:14-16](#) and [Proverbs 14:30](#)**. According to these passages (as well as the Prodigal Son parable), what are the results of envy and jealousy? When have you experienced the negative impacts of jealousy or envy? If we recognize that this attitude is so destructive, why do we constantly let ourselves go there mentally?
4. **Read [Luke 15:25-32](#)**. Who do you relate to more in this passage: the younger or older son? What are the similarities between the two brothers? How does God want us to react to His blessing and grace for others? Why is this hard for us?
5. Final Thought: **Read [1 Corinthians 13:4](#) and [Ecclesiastes 6:9](#)**. What are some of the gifts and blessings in your life that you really enjoy and for which you are thankful? When were you able to applaud another person's success, even though it was something you really wanted for yourself?

Deeper

Leader: This section is designed for further use in your Life Group or for personal study. These can also be used as discussion points and ways to stay connected with your group throughout the week.

Self-centeredness takes on many forms: jealousy, entitlement, envy, greed, conceit, paranoia, depression, and self-involvement. None of these attitudes and mindsets are from or of God. Jesus once said the greatest commandment is to love. He also said there is no law against love. Every sin can be boiled down to this: we focus too much on ourselves and not enough energy or focus goes into loving others or loving God. Remember, God is love. It is His prime motivation and commandment.

A prime example of this is the Israelites during their time in the desert. Their focus on themselves and their own fears led to their rebellion against God. Remember this occurs immediately after God has set Israel free from slavery through the ten plagues. He has parted the Red Sea for them to cross, swallowed their enemies in the same sea, and now feeds them with mana from heaven (miracle bread that formed on the ground each day). Yet the Israelites lose faith and joy! Let's take a deeper look at how this mindset formed in the Israelites.

6. **Read [Exodus 15:22-27](#)**. Why does Israel turn against Moses and God so quickly? What is ironic about their betrayal and how does God respond to them? Has there ever been a time in your life where you complained to God because of the situation you were facing?

7. **Read [Exodus 16:1-3](#)**. Who are the Israelites envying? Why? Is their situation truly worse now than it was then? When have you longed for the "good ole days" rather than your current situation?

8. **Read [Exodus 32:1-8](#)**. Why does Israel make their own gods? How could they justify giving this calf-god(s) credit for bringing them out of Egypt? When have you failed to give God credit for what He has done?

9. **Read [Numbers 13:25-14:4](#)**. When faced with a tough decision, do you have faith in God and move forward, even though it might be scary or unknown? When have you done this? Do you let your emotions get the best of you and succumb to popular opinion? Do you base your decisions on what everyone else is doing?