

Word on the Street Discussion Time: The Jealous Guy

You could use this discussion starter with your family, your friends, or maybe in your class or your Church youth group. Read the story at the top and use the questions to start discussion. Then read the Bible story and talk through the second set of questions. You could finish with a prayer based on your discussion.

Jordan was one of the most popular kids at school, and not just because his dad was a millionaire. He was also good looking, funny, generous and clever. People liked to be around him.

Joe found it difficult to like Jordan. As one of the *less* popular kids, he disliked Jordan for all the same reasons that most people loved to hang around with him. Joe wasn't very clever, he wasn't very good looking, he wasn't very funny, and his family didn't have money. So when he saw Jordan, all he was reminded of was what he didn't have.

One afternoon, Joe and Jordan both arrived late at their maths class. There were only two seats left, and so Jordan sat in the first, and Joe, gritting his teeth, cursed his bad luck, and sat down in the other.

Jordan was his usual friendly, helpful self, but all Joe could see was the evidence of all the things Jordan had – from the new iPod in his bag to the expensive watch on his wrist. From around the room, different friends would shout out to Jordan – and even the teacher liked him. Joe got angrier and angrier. He hated Jordan – it was so unfair that he had so much. Of course, he didn't say anything; he just sat there and smouldered.

- How does it make you feel when certain people seem to have everything going right for them? Is it unfair?
- What is your reaction to Joe? Do you feel sympathy for him? Or something else?
- What do you think is the bigger problem here – Jordan's wealth or Joe's jealousy? Why?
- Do you ever feel jealous? What kind of things or people do you find you are jealous of?

Read 1 Samuel 18: 1-9

- This story comes after David has defeated the giant Goliath. How do you think he would have viewed himself after this victory?
- Why do you think King Saul was jealous of David?
- What are the feelings that you get about David and Saul from reading these verses? Where do you think this story is going?
- Who do you identify with in this story, and why? Who would you rather be?

An extended version of this discussion appears in *The Ideas Factory: 100 Adaptable Discussion Starters for Teens*. It is written by Martin Saunders, the Editor of *Youthwork* magazine.