

the shallow **END**



6-WEEK STUDY

DIVING INTO THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD

WEEK 6

DISCUSSION GUIDE

GOD'S NAME IS... JEALOUS?

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Exodus 34:6-14

Secondary texts from this week: Hosea 1-3

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To better understand the idea of God's jealousy as an expression of His holiness and His love.

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is your favorite song of all time?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a situation in your life where you experienced jealousy? (whether you were jealous yourself or you were on the receiving end of someone else's jealousy)
2. After hearing Sunday's message, how would you describe the relationship between God's holiness and His jealousy? How about the relationship between His love and His jealousy? How does that differ from your own experience with jealousy?
3. Have someone in the group read **Numbers 25:1-9** (warning: it's an intense, graphic, and shocking passage). How do you feel about this story in light of what we've been studying about God's jealousy?
4. Have someone in the group read **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. What do you think Moses means when he refers to God as a "consuming fire?"
5. Have someone in the group read Jesus' words in **Luke 14:26-27**. Even though the word here for "hate" can refer to the idea of prioritizing one thing over another, it's still a pretty intense statement. What do you think Jesus is intending to communicate to His disciples (and to you and me) here?
6. Have someone in the group read **James 4:4-5**. Why do you think James uses the image of adultery here to describe "friendship with the world?" What do you think He means by "friendship with the world?"
7. Let's get practical: what are some things in your life that often try to compete with God for your attention and priority?
8. What is one way you can give God the priority He deserves this week?

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PRAYER

Pray for each other: Pray that each person in your group would recognize the beauty of God's jealousy as an expression of His holiness and His love.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God would show you areas of your life that you are turning into idols.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

The human mind is, so to speak, a perpetual forge of idols. (John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1559). According to Calvin, the human heart is an idol factory— constantly creating new idols to worship and to give our time, money, and attention to. This week, write down three areas of your life that you tend to give your time, money, or attention to, and prayerfully ask God to show you how to keep those areas of your life from becoming idols.

NOTES
