



## Divine services for children

Suggested at least once a quarter, on a local or regional basis, a children's service should use the special Divine Service Guide that is provided for that quarter. Children's service Divine Service Guides replace the Sunday morning Divine Service Guide and should not be used in addition to the Sunday Divine Service Guide for that day.

The purpose is to:

- give the children a special word that is understandable, memorable, and relevant
- clearly put them in the center of the congregation
- create opportunity to connect multiple generations within the congregation
- strengthen the value of the divine service and increase their knowledge of Christ and the Bible

In order to help build excitement and to ensure that the entire congregation is prepared for these unique services, they should be announced well in advance. It is encouraged to consider setting a consistent frequency of the services (i.e. the last Sunday of the first month of each quarter). Where possible, the children can participate in some of the congregational functions (ushering, greeting, as the choir, etc.). The person giving the children's message should be someone that has the capability to communicate and connect well with the children. For example, a Sunday school teacher, young adult, etc. that is dedicated to prepare for this responsibility.

### Liturgy

The divine service is opened in the normal way with the invocation, opening prayer, Bible verse, and response hymn. Thereafter, the minister at the altar can introduce the theme and a few thoughts, which should not exceed 5 minutes.

The person giving the children's message then begins in front of the altar, speaking directly to the children, who should be sitting in the first rows.

The unique children's portion is per the recommendations set out by the Children's Work Group that accompanied the Children's service Divine Service Guide for that given quarter. This section of the divine service can be anywhere from 15-25 minutes, depending on the number of students and their ages, and can include methods such as speaking, props, skits, demonstrations, and simulation. Questions and dialogue between the children and facilitator are encouraged.

During this time, the priests should sit in the congregation. The children's component can end with a congregational hymn, which allows the priest to return to the altar. The officiant can then summarize the children's component and prepare the congregation for Holy Communion, which should take no longer than 10 minutes. From then on, the service liturgy continues as normal.

It is also suggested that lunch or refreshments with the congregation be available after the service to highlight and celebrate these children services, and to provide additional opportunity for generations to interact with each other.



## Guarding against jealousy

### **Bible Text:**

*And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the Lord was with him. Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him.*

-- 1 Samuel 18:14-15

**Message:** Let us guard ourselves against jealousy, for we want to become like Jesus.

### **Introduction**

Saul was the first king God gave to His people. He fought against the enemies of Israel and eventually defeated them. Over time his relationship with God deteriorated and he no longer did God's will.

David was anointed as his successor. He was successful in everything he did and this was a sign of divine blessing. At first, Saul loved David and made him his armor bearer (1 Samuel 16:21).

### **Main part**

#### **A change in Saul**

When Saul saw how successful David was in everything and that the people loved and admired him (1 Samuel 18: 7), he became jealous of David and even afraid of him. This had consequences: he watched David closely from that day on (1 Samuel 18:9). He hated him, he became suspicious, and even tried to kill him (1 Samuel 18:11).

#### **Jealousy in everyday life**

Sometimes we experience things that make us jealous.

- At school: the teacher might favor a particular student; another student always has better grades; the girl sitting next to you has more friends than you; and one of your classmates has rich parents.
- In the congregation: one child has a better relationship with the rector, gets to participate in Sunday School more, is well-liked by many of the brothers and sisters, has more friends in the congregation.

Often it only looks as though the other person has advantages because of this, but even so one can quickly become jealous.

#### **The effects of jealousy**

As was the case with Saul, jealousy changes people:





- they become resentful towards others, are no longer as helpful, and become angry and ungrateful.
- another consequence is greed. Greedy people always want more than others have and become egotistic.

The Tenth Commandment shows us how God sees this: “You shall not covet...”

### Jesus is our example

Jesus is our big example in everything. He showed us how we should treat our neighbor and gave us the commandment to love our neighbor. Characteristics that develop on the basis of jealousy are not compatible with this. If we love our neighbor we will be happy for him if he is successful and wealthy. This is also a good basis on which lasting friendships can develop.

It is beautiful when the love that Jesus exemplified is also found in our behavior. Let us follow His example, because when He returns for us we want to be with Him forever.

### Summary

- Jealous people develop characteristics that are not compatible with Jesus Christ.
- We want to become like Jesus and therefore guard ourselves against jealousy.

### Didactic tips

The examples of jealousy can be openly discussed with the children, including what effects this has. The teacher can ask the children what it means specifically when we say that we want to become like Jesus.

## Supplemental Notes and Activity Ideas:

### 1 Samuel 18:1-16

Now when he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul. <sup>2</sup> Saul took him that day, and would not let him go home to his father’s house anymore. <sup>3</sup> Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul. <sup>4</sup> And Jonathan took off the robe that was on him and gave it to David, with his armor, even to his sword and his bow and his belt.

<sup>5</sup> So David went out wherever Saul sent him, *and* behaved wisely. And Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people and also in the sight of Saul’s servants. <sup>6</sup> Now it had happened as they were coming *home*, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. <sup>7</sup> So the women sang as they danced, and said:





“Saul has slain his thousands,  
And David his ten thousands.”

<sup>8</sup> Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, “They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed *only* thousands. Now *what* more can he have but the kingdom?” <sup>9</sup> So Saul eyed David from that day forward.

<sup>10</sup> And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played *music* with his hand, as at other times; but *there* was a spear in Saul’s hand. <sup>11</sup> And Saul cast the spear, for he said, “I will pin David to the wall!” But David escaped his presence twice.

<sup>12</sup> Now Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, but had departed from Saul. <sup>13</sup> Therefore Saul removed him from <sup>14</sup>his presence, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people. <sup>14</sup> And David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. <sup>15</sup> Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. <sup>16</sup> But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

---

### Going Deeper...

#### **Behaving Like a Christians – Romans 12:9-21**

<sup>9</sup> *Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.* <sup>10</sup> *Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;* <sup>11</sup> *not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;* <sup>12</sup> *rejoicing in hope, patient<sup>14</sup> in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer;* <sup>13</sup> *distributing to the needs of the saints, given<sup>14</sup> to hospitality.*

<sup>14</sup> *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.* <sup>15</sup> *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.* <sup>16</sup> *Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

<sup>17</sup> *Repay no one evil for evil. Have<sup>14</sup> regard for good things in the sight of all men.* <sup>18</sup> *If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.* <sup>19</sup> *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but *rather* give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance *is* Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.* <sup>20</sup> *Therefore*

“If your enemy is hungry, feed him;  
If he is thirsty, give him a drink;  
For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

<sup>21</sup> *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*



### Visual Aids

#### **Act it Out**

Have two grown-ups act out a situation where one has a cool new toy or backpack (or something else) and the other is jealous. The grown-up acting jealous should do things such as saying mean things about the other person and trying to even take the cool toy/backpack, etc.

After this activity, you can ask some of the following questions:

- How did the jealous person act?
- What would have been a nicer way for the jealous person to act towards the person with the cool toy/backpack?

Explain to the children that we are supposed to love all people, as Jesus told us. If we love all people, then we have to try not be jealous of them because that will hurt our love for them. Remind the children of the story they learned about in the divine service, and how Saul and David started as friends, but then Saul began to hate David because he was jealous.

After the “Act it Out” activity, brainstorm with the children some things they can do to help them not be jealous of someone else.

- An example: If the child is envious of a soccer teammate who scores a lot of goals, they could instead think about the strengths they have in soccer such as passing the ball. They could also practice more to try and get better.

#### **Thank You Cards**

When you are thankful to God for what you have in life, it’s easier to fight against jealousy because you already feel like you have so much and don’t need more!

Have the children write five Thank You cards to God about different things in their life that they are thankful for. The Thank You cards can be about anything, but if there is something the child has experienced jealousy over, then encourage them write a Thank You card about the specific situation (i.e. someone jealous of a friend’s party could write a Thank You card for all the friends they have and the fun things they do together).

### Congregation project

Explain to the children that jealousy is a characteristic that goes against who Jesus is and what He teaches us. Make a list of some of the characteristics that Jesus *does* like or exemplified when He was on earth. When you are done making your list, try to find Bible verses for each of those characteristics. Write the Bible verses on notecards and have the children hand them out to some of the members in the congregation.

