

I've Got Issues - Greed

Getting Started

Blindfold two people. (Preferably people in your group...) Hand them a small grocery bag. Empty a bag of Hershey's Kisses or some other type of small candy on the table or in the floor. Set the timer for 20 seconds. On GO, see who can get the most kisses in their bag. Whoever gets the most, wins the whole bag. Make sure to cheer them on! (If you want to really hammer home the illustration, you can put a couple of \$20 bills on the floor, too and see if they notice them)

Going Deeper

Greed can often blind us from other more important things going on in our families/relationships. As Glen shared, his self-centeredness for many years kept him in denial of his family's true needs.

Discussion: Share a time when greed blinded you. (It can be recent or way back when...)

As with the other issues we've discussed in this series, all of us deal with greed, some of us successfully. Some of us, well... not so successfully. In the Bible there are a number of examples of greed and it's fruit. One is found in Luke 12 where Jesus is preaching to the crowds about the subject.

Read Luke 12:13 - 21

Discussion: What recent thoughts have you had that are similar to this rich man? Jesus makes a distinction between storing things up for yourself and being rich toward God. What are some things that might fit into each of those categories?

Paul the apostle saw this issue as such a big deal that he includes it in a list of the more usual sin suspects.

Read 1 Corinthians 5:11

Notice that in verse 10 he reminds them that he's not talking about judging worldly people who have this issue, but rather those who claim to be a Christian but are exhibiting this as a lifestyle.

Discussion: Why is it important to be careful about closely associating with self-centered Christians?

Proverbs 15:27 says: "The **greedy** bring ruin to their households."

Discussion: While everyone has some level of greed, the strength of its foothold in our lives can be a real determinant of how our family goes. How have you seen that played out in your life or family?

Acting Normal

Write down an area of greed or self-centeredness that you're struggling with. Underneath it, make a short list of four things you will do this week instead of focusing on your own need.