

## Can God be Jealous?

**Purpose of Discussion:** To reflect on one way we have misrepresented God's name and identify one specific way we can bear God's name well.

**Sermon Refresher:** God's name is Jealous; He is "fiercely protective" of us and of His name. Because we are called to represent Him and to show the world what He is like, God deeply cares about how we live.

**Icebreaker:** When you were a kid, how did your parents want you to represent the family when you were out in public?

### Discussion:

1. Keith shared several examples of people trying to let others know they are Christians through things like Testamints, golf balls, and poker chips. Think of ways that people try to represent Christ. What are some "cheesy" examples of people trying to represent Christ? What are some judgmental examples of people trying to represent Christ? What are examples of people trying to be cool, in an attempt to win people over to Christ?
2. In 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Paul outlines for the church what it looks like to be an ambassador for Christ.

#### 2 Corinthians 5:11-21.

<sup>11</sup> Since then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience. <sup>12</sup> We are not trying to commend ourselves to you again, but are giving you an opportunity to take pride in us, so that you can answer those who take pride in what is seen rather than in what is in the heart. <sup>13</sup> If we are "out of our mind," as some say, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. <sup>14</sup> For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

# THE **crossing** **small groups**

<sup>16</sup> So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup> that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

What different ideas can we learn about what it looks like to be an ambassador for Christ from this passage?

3. Read [Leviticus 19:9-18](#) as a group. List different ways God calls the Israelites to represent him.
4. Take a minute to reflect on one command God gives his people that stands out to you personally as an area where you have misrepresented God's name.
5. How can you apply one of those specific commands from Leviticus 19:9-18 to your life? How could this practically impact how you bear God's name to the people around you?

**Sharing and Prayer:** Take time to either individually or as a group confess the ways that we have intentionally or unintentionally misrepresented God's name. Ask God to bring light to the areas of your life where you might bear his name well. Ask that good news of the Gospel would motivate and strengthen you to represent God's name well and for grace and humility to own up to the times when you don't.