

STUDY NOTES

NOT MY GOD

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Is God Jealous?" on 10/21/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 20:4-6

IS GOD REALLY JEALOUS?

Atheist Richard Dawkins describes God as such: "The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction: jealous and proud of it..."

But is God really jealous? If we look up the definition of jealous, we see two different definitions.

- 1) Feeling or showing envy of someone or their achievements and advantages.
- 2) Fiercely protective or vigilant of one's rights or possessions.

Some people have walked away from the faith because they viewed the jealousy of God as definition #1. A better way to understand God's jealousy is definition #2.

We are God's possession and He is completely protective of us.

- *When you think of jealousy, what do you think about? Are those experiences positive experiences or negative?*

GOD'S JEALOUSY AND IDOLATRY

Humanity wants what is good in the world. Humanity thirsts after fulfillment. However, humanity also foolishly chases after the wrong things. This is called idolatry. Idolatry is seeking to find the fulfillment, that only God can give, in something other than God.

- *What things do you find yourself seeking fulfillment above finding fulfillment in God? How fulfilling has that proven to be true?*

GOD'S JEALOUSY IS BEST

"We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambitions when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

- C.S. Lewis, *Weight of Glory*

God is jealous for our love, because He knows that He is what is best for us. He knows that anything else will leave us feeling empty.

If God is the highest of all things, then it would be wrong for Him not to be jealous for our love.

- *In your own words, describe how God's jealousy for you is a good thing and is completely loving.*

JEALOUSY OUT OF LOVE

We can see that God's jealousy is good. Most of the time, we view jealousy negatively because our experience is with someone being jealous over something that is not rightfully theirs. However, if we are supposed to imitate God, then that means we should also imitate His jealousy. We must ask ourselves from where our jealousy comes.

Jealousy out of a place of true love is a good thing. Jealousy out of a place of fear and insecurity is not good.

- *Have you experienced the difference between both types of jealousy? Explain how they felt different.*
- *Is there anything that you should rightfully feel jealous about? If so, what and why?*
- *How does Jesus's work on the cross prove to you that His jealousy for you comes purely from His love for you?*
- *Pray with each other to feel jealous over what is right.*