**Witham United Reformed Church**

**Study notes to accompany service on 30th May 2021
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**Jealousy Bible Study**

Pray before you start for enlightenment and that God will speak to you through this study.

*This Sunday we will be looking at jealousy. Jealousy is an attribute of God that we don’t tend to engage with very often. It can be something we find hard to understand, after all, we see jealousy as a sin. We are told in Galatians 5:20 that jealousy is an act of the flesh, a sin. So let’s look at this topic in more detail and see what the Bible has to say to us.*

1. In what ways do you experience jealousy in your life?

Read Exodus 20: 1-17

1. Verse 17 tells us about not coveting our neighbour’s belongings. We don’t have oxen, donkeys, or servants, so what things can we be jealous and envious of, that our neighbour has?
2. Verses 3-6 tell us that God is a jealous God. What is God jealous of in these verses?
3. We tend to think of idols as not something we get involved with but an idol can be anything that takes the place of God. What could modern-day idols be?
4. Read Jeremiah 2:13, How is idolatry like digging your own water cistern?
5. Why do people go after idols like money and recognition if these things are like cisterns with holes?
6. We tend to think of the ten commandments as something given to the Israelites but Jesus also reaffirmed them in his teachings. Compare Exodus 20:3 to Matthew 4:10, Exodus 20:4 to Luke 16:13, and Exodus 20:17 to Luke 12:15
7. How can we ensure that we give God the devotion he deserves from us?
8. Another positive aspect of jealousy is ‘zeal’, a burning desire to advance God’s glory. How can God’s people be filled with zeal for God?
9. Christian Aid seeks to advance God’s glory through action against injustices. In what ways can we get involved in social justice to advance God’s glory?

Ask for any prayer concerns that people would like prayer for and spend time praying for and with each other.

Conclude by sharing the Grace.