

A. Theme: Jealousy

Watch Parul Sehgal's TEDtalk *An Ode to Envy*(13:13). Then answer the questions below and discuss in your small group.

http://www.ted.com/talks/parul_sehgal_an_ode_to_envy

1. What is the main idea of Sehgal's discussion of envy?
2. Why do you think that jealousy is such a powerful emotion?
3. How does jealousy cause people to act "out of character"?
4. Can you think of a time when jealousy caused you to act in a manner that you later regretted? Explain this situation and explain how you wished you had handled it differently.

B. Theme: Deception

Watch Pamela Meyer's TEDtalk *How to Spot a Liar* (18:51). Then answer the questions below and discuss in your small group.

http://www.ted.com/talks/pamela_meyer_how_to_spot_a_liar

1. What is the main idea of Meyer's discussion of envy?
2. Meyer makes the claim that lying is a cooperative act. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
3. Can we ever fully know the truth about a person?
4. Why do you believe that deception is so ingrained in the human experience?
5. Can you think of a time when you truly believed that someone was being honest to you and in the end you realized that this person had deceived you? How did this make you feel? Looking back, were there signs that you missed which could have helped you to realize that this individual was deceiving you?

C. On-Demand Writing Prompt

How might the forces of envy and deception lead to the eventual downfall of a person's success and well-being? Use an example from real life (think celebrities, politicians, public figures, etc.).