



## Part 2 - Why are people mean?

### DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. Where do you most notice people being mean—school, social media, home, in your group of friends, or somewhere else?
2. Would you say you've ever been a bully? Why do you think you treated someone in a mean way?
3. Is the movie stereotype of a bully always being cruel and taking people's lunch money accurate? What does it really look like?
4. Read James 4:1–3. Let's rewrite this verse for today's middle school student. Instead of "You desire but you do not have, so you kill," how could it be written? "You desire but you don't have, so you \_\_\_\_."
5. "Covet" means to wish for or desire what someone else has. What do you think Gr 6-8 students covet?
6. How would you define "bully"? (To bully is to treat someone in an overbearing or intimidating manor; Bullying is courage that is found in the intimidation of those who are weaker.)
7. What would we say most people are trying to gain when they are mean to someone? What are you trying to gain when you treat someone poorly?
8. What does it look like to take a need to God? Why might that be more difficult than taking control of meeting your own need?
9. Bullies are often remembered for the wrong reasons. What do you want to be remembered for by your peers?

### OPENING QUESTION:

I bully others because I really don't feel . . . . .

### BOTTOM LINE:

Bullies often get what they want but never what they need.

### WRAP IT UP:

Complete the quiz

### SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

James 4:1–3: "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God."



## Part 2 - Wrap It Up Quiz

**Here's a little quiz to discover if you've ever been a bully.  
Answer each one with true or false.**

- Do you ever raise your voice to talk over someone who is disagreeing with you?
- Have you ever used a joke to make someone feel bad or to get someone to stop arguing?
- When you are having a disagreement, do you stand up or move closer to the person?
- Do you change or make up rules mid-argument to get what you want?
- Do you have multiple usernames on social media?
- Have you ever not invited someone as a way to get back at them?
- Do you feel joy or smile when you see someone fail?
- Have you ever used relational leverage to make someone do something?
- Have you ever threatened to share a secret unless someone does what you want?
- Have you ever belittled someone about their clothes?