

Where Eagles Soar

Unit Six



**“ . . . or one member be honoured,
all the members rejoice with it.”**
I Corinthians 12: 26b

SCRIPTURAL OBJECTIVES FOR THE UNIT:

- To understand that we are to rejoice when someone else is honored.
- To recognize that jealousy is a symptom of pride and unthankfulness.
- To understand that jealousy can be prevented by developing a thankful heart.
- To recognize that insulting someone does not make us look more important.
- To recognize that jealousy is ungodly.
- To realize that our work is done to glorify God, not to glorify ourselves.

SUGGESTIONS FOR INTRODUCING THE SCRIPTURAL THEME:

Refer to a familiar event during which awards are presented to students. (Perhaps you have Awards Night at the end of the school year.) Suggest that we all know the feeling of watching someone else receive an award that we had so badly wanted. When this happens we have to make a choice. Do we get jealous and angry? Or do we rejoice with the one who receives the honor of winning the award? What does God expect of us? (Romans 12:15 says “*Rejoice with them that do rejoice.*”)

Although we may admire the talents and the accomplishments of people like Leonardo and Michelangelo, we must realize that they didn't necessarily live Godly lives. Though their work is to be admired, their characters may not be.

Refer to the fact that Leonardo and Michelangelo lived at the same time in history, and on occasion they lived in the same city. They were both considered supreme talents, but their pride created jealousy that caused a great dislike to exist between them. Their attitudes toward each other were competitive rather than complementary. Each attempted to outdo the other, if not in their work, then by their insults.

Michelangelo, who tended to be the more aggressive, was said to have called out sarcastic remarks to Leonardo in the street. Leonardo, on the other hand, poked fun at Michelangelo's work in his *Treatise on Painting*. Read the following passage written by Leonardo:

“The sculptor in creating his work does so by the strength of his arm . . . often accompanied by great sweat which mixes with the marble dust and forms a kind of mud daubed all over his face. The marble dust flours him all over so that he looks like a baker; his back is covered with a snowstorm of chips, and his house is made filthy by the flakes and dust of stone. The exact reverse is true of the painter . . . [who] sits before his work, perfectly at his ease and well dressed, and moves a very light brush dipped in delicate color; and he adorns himself with whatever clothes he pleases. His house is clean and filled with charming pictures: and often he is accompanied by music or by the reading of various and beautiful works which, since they are not mixed with the sound of the hammer or other noises, are heard with the greatest pleasure.”

Ask the children for their opinions about what might cause such an attitude between such supposedly great men. (*pride*) Discuss 1 Timothy 6:4 (“*He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife . . .*”) which links pride to jealousy and strife.

How should Leonardo and Michelangelo have treated each other? (*They should have respected the gift in each other and glorified God, the creator of the gift, rather than looking for glory for themselves.*)

* Howard Hibbard, *Michelangelo*, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, second edition, 1985, p. 74,75