

Play: Evening up

Think of some games you like to play but add challenges to them. E.g Table tennis wearing a heavy overcoat, or holding something (heavy!) in your non-bat hand//Football in wellies//Basketball or netball and when you score you must hop until the next score. Gifts and skills aren't necessarily evenly distributed and this can cause jealousy.

Play: How much?

Give each person a pen and paper and show them an actual item or a picture of it. They must guess how much it costs and write it down. The person with the closest estimate wins a point. Show several items and see who gets the most points. Use items such as PSPs and televisions and children's toys. How you feel if your friend was given a television for Christmas and they were given a clock radio? Would they be jealous? Why? How about if they were given the television and their friend was given the clock radio and a couple of computer games? Would that be fair or would they be jealous still? Why? Sometimes we are jealous with a good reason (if something is blatantly unfair), but sometimes we feel jealous even when we are being treated fairly!

Watch: The Prodigal returns <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJgROx4wFKM>

Read: The The Prodigal Returns

"A man had two sons. Daniel and Jim. Daniel took half of his father's money and went to the big City with it. He spent all the money at wild parties, and was left with nothing. Jim was a good boy and a hard worker. He did his best to please his father, and while Daniel was away wasting his money, Jim stayed at home. He dug fields, he ploughed fields, he planted seeds, he weeded, and at the end of the year he gathered in the harvest. Jim was sure that he was his father's favourite son. He always did what he was told, and never asked for anything. Jim knew that when his father died, he would get everything - and if Daniel ever came back, well, he would throw him out! Jim didn't really like the fact that his father prayed every night that Daniel would come home. He thought that his father should stop loving Daniel, and turn Daniel's old bedroom into a games room. But his father wouldn't hear of it. He always kept the room ready for when Daniel would come home. That made Jim rather jealous, sometimes. Why should his father go on thinking about Daniel so much? But Jim didn't really let it bother him - Daniel was gone, and one day his father would forget all about him. One night, Jim worked late weeding the strawberries. As he came home, he thought he heard music coming from the house. Jim started to run. Jim ran inside. "What is it?" he asked one of the servants. "Daniel's come home! After all this time, Daniel's come home!" cried the servant. Daniel was home, thought Jim, feeling cold inside. But why was there a party, then? Surely his father should just throw Daniel out again? Jim called another servant. "What's going on?" he asked. "Daniel is home, and your father is throwing a huge party, He's killed the calf that he was saving for a special occasion." Jim was furious. He stormed outside and thumped a brick wall hard. Then he thumped it again. He felt all curled up and miserable inside. So that was that. His father didn't love him at all. He only loved Daniel. This party proved it. He would leave home himself. No one would even notice, they were so happy that Daniel had come back. Jim didn't want to go in and see Daniel. He wanted to forget all about him. As he stayed there, brooding, he heard footsteps coming towards him. "Jim! There you are! Why don't you come and join the party?" cried his Father. "Don't want to," said Jim. "Why ever not?" asked his father. "Because Daniel has wasted all your money and you're throwing a party for him. When have you ever given me a party? You've never given me anything. Daniel's your favourite, isn't he? He always has been." "Jim, you are my son. Everything on this farm belongs to you as much as it does to me. Of course I love you! But it is right to be happy because Daniel is back, because he is my son as well. I love you both, and I am thrilled to have you both with me again."

Pray:

Pray together, thanking God for making you unique and special, and ask God to help you to be glad that he made you the way you are, and not to be jealous of people who have been made with different strengths.