

TREES

Theme: Andrew didn't envy Peter
Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; background:
John 1:35-41; 6:8-9; 12:20-22

Do Ahead: Bring a potted tree and place it near where you will talk. Plan a place for someone to hide near the tree (such as behind a door or behind a blanket draped over a clothesline). Recruit someone to hide and help you. *Option:* Rig a microphone instead.



OBJECT TALK

Leader: Walk to front.

Helper: **Hey, you!**

Leader: **Who's talking to me?** Look around, puzzled.

Helper: **Hey! Down here! The tree.**

Leader: Look at tree. **Trees don't talk.**

Helper: **That's news to me.**

Leader: **You must be a very special tree.**

Helper: **No, that's the whole problem. I'm not. I'm ordinary. I saw a special on TV the other day...**

Leader: **You watch TV?**

Helper: **Well, yeah. Now pay attention. I've got issues here. I saw this special on TV about giant redwood trees. Redwoods get all the attention. I'm jealous. I'm just a plain old tree. Redwoods have tourists come to visit. Nobody ever notices me.**

Leader: **Well, uh** (look nervously at club members), **I hope things get better for you, tree. Uh, see you later.** Sneak away and face group.

So what do you think? Did our skit sound kind of silly? Why? Let club members call out answers. **Of course. Trees can't talk or think. It's also silly for one tree to envy another. All trees are good. You know what else is silly about this? Humans are more intelligent than trees, but sometimes we envy each other. Do you ever grumble because you**

think you're not as popular as someone in your class or don't have as many things as a friend or aren't as good at sports?

BIBLE TALK

Let's look at someone in the Bible who had a good reason to be jealous. His name was Andrew, and he was Peter's brother. The Bible mentions Peter a lot, but it hardly ever mentions Andrew. Peter had a special place among Jesus' 12 helpers—his disciples. Peter gave great sermons and wrote famous letters. Andrew didn't. Do you think Andrew envied his brother?

Let's see what clues the Bible gives us. Andrew met Jesus first; right away Andrew went and told Peter and brought him to Jesus. Then when Jesus fed more than 5,000 people with just five pieces of bread and two small fish, Andrew was the one who brought the boy with the fish and bread to Jesus. Later, some Greek people wanted to meet Jesus, and Andrew arranged that.

These clues show what was important to Andrew. He focused on bringing people to Jesus. Think how things might have turned out if Andrew resented Peter or thought he wasn't worthy of Jesus! Andrew didn't let envy get to him. He didn't waste time wishing he were someone else or resenting others.

We can follow Andrew's example. God made each of us and has things for us to do. Read Ephesians 2:10. We need to concentrate on accepting who God made us instead of grumbling about who he didn't make us. So whenever you see this tree, do a quick check: Is there someone you're jealous of? Let the tree remind you that you are God's special workmanship.

Helper: (As the tree) **Absolutely!**

TALK TO GOD

Dear God, thank you for making us and giving us good things to do for you. Help us accept who you made us to be and not envy others. In Jesus' name, amen.