



THE EVIL EYE

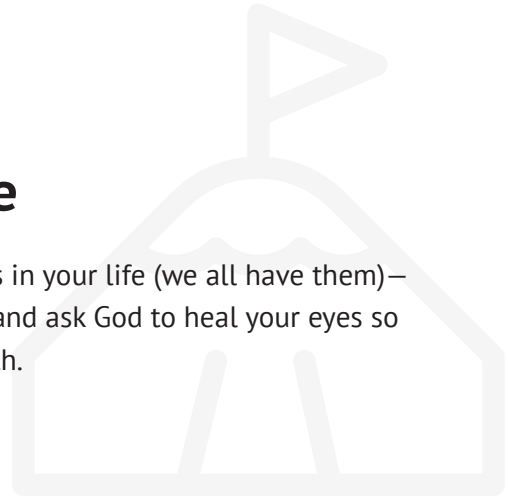
SUMMARY | When you hear “the evil eye,” what comes to mind? Did you know this idea shows up in the Bible? Literally, the Greek words for “eye of evil” show up several times, but you may not know it because it’s translated differently. There are several concepts Bible translators use to describe what was most likely a common saying in the ancient world, and this week we will explore those concepts and how they help us understand the good news Jesus came to share.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. What do you think of when you hear the phrase “the evil eye”?
2. William Blake called the eyes “life’s dim windows of the soul” and Jesus said they are the “lamp of the body” (Matthew 6:22–23), what do these metaphors tell us about the importance of the eyes?
3. What does light represent in the Bible? What does it mean when the Bible says an unhealthy eye can fill your body with darkness? (See Matthew 6:21–24; Psalm 4:6; 27:1; 119:105; Proverbs 4:18; 15:30; Isaiah 9:2; Matthew 5:13–16; John 1:5.)
4. The Greek words “eye of evil” are often translated “envy.” After looking at the passages that describe “the evil eye” this way, what is envy and why do you think translators chose envy as the translation of “eye of evil”?
5. The parable of the vineyard owner (Matthew 20:1–16) is about an overly generous landowner who overpays for completed work. How does this story point us to the generosity of God?
6. Matthew 6:22–23 implies we can believe a lie, which means we can be deceived into thinking a lie is true. What hope is there for us if it’s possible to believe lies? How can we ever be sure we know the truth?

Challenge

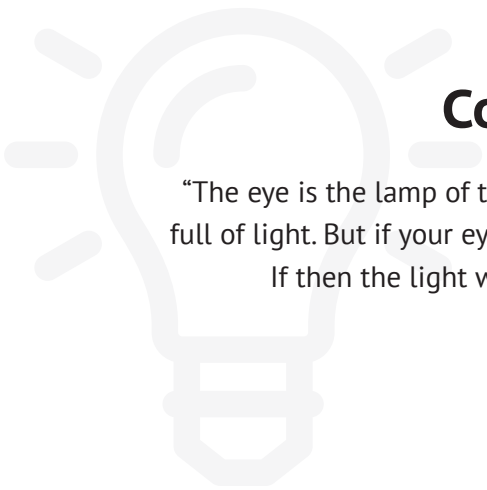
Pull out a journal and ask God to reveal blind spots in your life (we all have them)—lies that you believe to be true. Write them down and ask God to heal your eyes so you can see His truth.



Commit To Memory

“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!”

Matthew 6:22–23



Prayer

Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear Your truth. Not what we think is true, but what is really true. Amen.

