



Topeka Bible Church
Settled Living in Unsettled Times, #4:
"Battle the Green-Eyed Monster"
Community Group Study Questions
Numbers 12:1-16 and selected passages

1. Describe a time when you were envious of someone. How did your envy harm your relationship (1 Corinthians 13:4; James 3:16)? Do you still struggle with envy in any area of your life? How can you find victory in the midst of this struggle?

2. Where was Cush (*Habakkuk 3:7* or *Isaiah 20:3* perhaps)? Who were Miriam (*Exodus 15:20*) and Aaron (*Exodus 4:14*) and why did they feel the need to confront Moses on this issue of marrying a Cushite woman (*Numbers 12:1*)?

3. God obviously spoke through Moses (*Deuteronomy 32:45-46*), but did He also speak through Miriam and Aaron (*Numbers 12:2; Micah 6:4; Exodus 4:15-16; 15:21*)? What does their question indicate about their true motivation for challenging Moses?

4. Why does God respond so quickly to Miriam and Aaron's challenge to Moses (*Numbers 12:4-5*)? How was God's communication with Moses unique (*Numbers 12:6-8; Hebrews 3:5; Exodus 24:2*)? How should Miriam and Aaron have treated Moses according to God?

5. Was God's punishment of Miriam fair (*Numbers 12:9-10; Deuteronomy 24:9*)? Why wasn't Aaron also punished with leprosy? What is ironic about Miriam's skin being made white (*Numbers 12:12*) in light of her accusations against Moses marrying a Cushite woman?

6. Why does Moses appeal to God to heal Miriam so quickly after her harsh accusations against him (*Numbers 12:13*)? What does this demonstrate about Moses (*Exodus 32:11; cf. Ephesians 4:32*)? Why did Miriam have to wait outside of the Israelite camp for seven days (*Numbers 12:14-15; Leviticus 13:45-46*)?

7. How does Miriam's example demonstrate the seriousness of the sin of envy (*Proverbs 27:4; 1 Corinthians 3:3*)? How can you grow as a person of humility, like Moses (*Numbers 12:3; Proverbs 11:2; Philippians 2:3-4; Hebrews 13:5*) rather than envy, like Miriam and Aaron?

Memory Verse:

**"Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth."
(Numbers 12:3, NASB)**