

IDOLS



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK ONE: "OVERVIEW" | MULTIPLE SCRIPTURES

SERIES OVERVIEW

God deserves the whole world's worship. Unfortunately, unworthy substitutes are usually the recipients of that worship in our lives. From golden calves to purple and gold, our world has never had a shortage of things, people or ideas competing for the throne of our lives. In his book, *Counterfeit Gods*, Tim Keller writes, "An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give." In this series, we'll identify these idols in our lives, discover how they fail, and seek to dethrone these lies that we love.

THIS WEEK

As we begin this series, we're going to look at the topic of idolatry from a 30,000 foot view. We'll dive into specific idols over the next several weeks, but this week, we're going to get on the same page about a topic that we all struggle with but very few identify with regularly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Ezekiel 14:3. What does it mean to "take idols into their hearts," and what does that look like in your life?
2. What things, people or ideas have you put in place in your past to give you one or all of the following - comfort, joy, hope, identity and/or salvation?
3. Describe things that make God great. Then, read Exodus 32:1 and answer the following question: Why would we pursue something other than God if he really is that great?

4. **Read Psalm 115:8. What does it look like to become like the idols we worship?**

5. **To finish up tonight, contrast how religion and the gospel seek to break the chains of idolatry.**

CONCLUSION

An idol is anything we put in the place of God to find only what God can give. These idols can be outward, but oftentimes, they are inward. Whatever they are, they will fail to fully satisfy 100% of the time. They actually will destroy the life of the person who worships them. Thankfully, our enslavement to idolatry is not hopeless. Our acknowledgement of the idols in our lives coupled with our belief in and need for Jesus can and will free us if we surrender to the power of the gospel.

APPLICATION

Take an Inventory: This week, take an inventory of the things, people, interactions or thoughts in your daily life that bring you temporary relief or satisfaction OR cause your mood to change rapidly. Write these things down and bring each one of them to the Lord. This exercise can help you identify potential idols in your life. It can also remind you that Jesus is the only one that can fully satisfy forever.