

IDOLS



COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE WEEK TWO: "SPORTS" | 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 continue to talk about idols, we start with the idolatry of sports. For many, sports is an idol in which we look to find things that only God can provide. We will look at how we can identify if sports is an idol in our life, why it is an idol, and how Jesus is the better fulfillment all the things that we look to sports to satisfy.

ICEBREAKER

What sporting event/activity captivates your attention the most? What emotion does this event/activity bring out the most in you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders, encourage your group members to spend time considering and answering the following questions before coming to the group, as this will produce a more lively discussion time.)

- 1. Read Exodus 20:4-5; Isaiah 44:9, 15-17. How would you define an idol in one's life today? How might we bow down and serve idols in today's world?**

- 2. What are some ways that you could identify the idols in your life?**

3. *Sports (watching LSU, playing certain sports, hunting, etc.) is a common area of one's life that we make an idol. Take some time and discuss if and how sports may be an idol in your life?*

4. **Do you enjoy sports as a gift of God as entertainment even when your team loses? Do sports or hunting elicit out of bounds emotional responses? If so, why do you believe sports invoke such a strong emotion?**

5. **Does a sport season or hunting season regularly affect your personal faith life and involvement in Christian community in a negative way?**

6. **Do you sever your participation in sports or cheering for your favorite team from your Christian faith?**

7. *What do we seek to find in sports that only God can give us? How can we rest in Jesus perfect fulfillment of these things?*

CONCLUSION

An idol is anything we put in the place of God to find only what God can give. Sports is an idol in many peoples lives that we look for victory, identity, celebration, and motivation. We must rest in Jesus' perfect fulfillment of these things and enjoy sports as a gift the God has given, not as a god in itself.

APPLICATION

Take an Inventory: Is Sports an idol in your life? If not, are there other things in your life that you look to find victory, identity, celebration, or motivation?

Pray for Obedience and Victory: Confess your idolatry to the Lord and pray for him to give you the power to stop looking to sports for the things that only he can give.

Look for Accountability: Tell a friend of the area that you believe you have made an idol and make practical goals to help protect you from giving into your idols.