

Freedom Series

Session 4: Idolatry

For Leaders: Here are some questions for you and your group to consider. You do not have to answer all the questions, but see which ones God is leading you to discuss with your group. You, the leader, can lead the discussion yourself, or you could ask for volunteers or assign people to certain questions. Above all, hear what God is saying to you through your group. Don't feel compelled to answer every question. Enjoy your time with God and with each other!

Learn

1. What does it mean to have a god or What is a god?
 - Something that we expect all good from, and in which we take refuge-in in distress.
 - Whatever your heart clings to and confides in
2. What are the first things that come to mind when you hear the word “idol”? What is an idol?
When does something good become an idol?
 - Image or representation of anything
 - Romans 1:23; Something we strongly set our affections on; Visible expression of invisible issues of the heart
 - Something good becomes an idol when we depend on it to give us what only God can
3. Based on these definitions of God and idol, what do you think are some of the “gods” and “idols” in your life?
4. How long did it take for the Israelites to worship another god after God led them out of the Red Sea? Why do you think they wanted or needed an idol? What did the people start to believe about God?
 - 6 weeks
 - They chose a calf – a symbol of courage and strength. Maybe they were feeling weak and abandoned since they had not heard from Moses and God.
5. What is God’s solution to our idolatry problem?
 - Repent and turn to Jesus, live as Jesus did, Be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we will live as God’s image bearers
 - Trust what God says about us; Laying down our pride and beholding God is the only solution; John 14:6-7

- 1. Freedom from idolatry starts with repentance - believing God sent Jesus to die on the cross
 - 2. Being in a relationship with him. Allow the Holy spirit to fill the empty spaces in our hearts
6. What are the 2 names for Jesus in Matt. Ch. 1? And what do they mean?
- Jesus, which means God saves.
 - Immanuel, which means God is with us.
7. Genesis 1:27 says that God created man in His image. How are we to live as images of God
- Become servants like Jesus did.
 - It looks like a people who are filled with Jesus' own Spirit, and filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Apply

1. There are two main ways that idols tend to crop up in our lives – areas where we have wrong thinking about ourselves or what God says about us and areas that we have not put under God's authority. What are some wrong thoughts you have about yourself or what are some areas in your life that need to come under God's authority? What do you need to trust God with today?
 - The human heart craves visible forms to support or negate what your mind believes to be true. Give some examples. If we believe we are insignificant, we can put something in the place of God to give us a sense of significance. If we believe we are worthless, we fill our lives with things that make us feel valuable or needed. When we don't believe what God says about us, (our identity), we inflate the world around us to fill the vacuum.
2. Based on these wrong beliefs, what are some wrong things you believe about God or what He says about you?
3. Spend time helping each other in the group identify Bible verses that speak to the truth of who God is and what He says about each person.