

American Idols

Small Group Questions

Getting to know you question:

1. Why do people call celebrities and sports stars “idols?”

Sermon reflection questions:

2. Before this week’s sermon, to what extent did you view yourself as an idol worshipper?

Into the Bible: Exodus 7-11

The ten plagues were signs of God’s glory, not only because they were miracles, but because each represented God’s superiority over the so-called Gods of Egypt. Even after the Israelites were living in the Promised Land, they struggled with the temptation to worship idols. Today, you probably don’t know anyone worshiping a statue, but our hearts are regularly being taught to love rival gods instead of the One for whom we were made.

3. Read Matthew 6:24. What is it about money that caused Jesus to say that it can compete with God for our devotion?

4. What else does the Apostle Paul equate with idolatry in Ephesians 5:5 and Colossians 3:5? How do these compete with God for your attention?

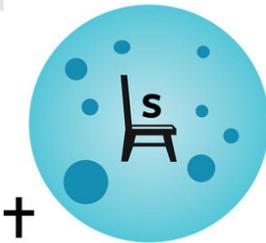
5. Dennis gave the definition of idolatry as “centering my life on anything other than God.” Discovering what those things are is the first step to

putting them back in their proper place. Choose your answer to one of these five questions and share it with your group.

- What is the hardest to lose?
- Where do I turn for help?
- Where do I invest my time, thought and energy?
- What produces “over-the-top” emotions? (i.e. What causes you to over-react emotionally?)
- What have I given my life to?

6. The diagram below shows how we put ourselves on the throne of our lives instead of God. The S for self is really just shorthand for the idols in our lives. How do these things operate to shape the other areas of our lives?

Self-Directed Life



S Self is on the throne

† Christ is outside the life

● Interests are directed by self, often resulting in discord and frustration

7. According to 2 Corinthians 6:16-17, how does God guide us to put idols in their proper place?

8. What are some practical ways you can take these things off the throne and demote them to their proper place? How can you elevate God to his proper place?

Application:

9. How can your group help each other to replace these idols with God himself?