

Opening Question

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the word "idol"? For you, what does the word "**idolatry**" mean?

Read Together

James 1:2-5

Big Idea

Our idolatry gets in the way of our experience of the IT God designed for us.

Discussion Questions

- 1) What's the first thing that comes to your mind about the word "idol" after reading these verses? Exodus 20:3-6; Colossians 3:5; 1st John 5:21.
- 2) What is the impact of idolatry on our relationship with God? Read Jonah 2:1-9 with a focus on verse 8.
- 3) What is the role of difficult times in changing our relationship to our idols? Read Hebrews 12:11; James 1:2-5 and 1 Peter 1:6-7.
- 4) Tim Keller defines an idol as 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 you... An idol is what we love, trust, and obey more than anything. In short, an idol is what we worship. Is there anything in your life that you sense would be an idol?
- 5) How do the Scriptures tell us to deal with our idols? Read Colossians 3:5-10. Can you identify a 3-step process?
- 6) How do you see this process playing out in everyday life? How might you put these steps into practice daily?
- 7) If you've identified an idol in your life, what specific things could you predetermine to do every time you are tempted by your idol to overcome it and remain connected to God?

Challenge

This week commit to spending time watching for the idols that tempt you. If you journal as a spiritual discipline, take time each day to think back through your day about the things that tempted you in the area of idolatry.

Prayer

Take time as a group to ask the Holy Spirit to convict you about the idols that you may not be able to see in your life and to ask for His power to overcome them.

Next Step

Tim Keller's book *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters* is an excellent book that provides penetrating thoughts on the rival or counterfeit gods in our lives. It's a short, but worthy read.