



WARNING:

DANGER AHEAD

DIGGING DEEPER:

(Read Colossians 2:1-15)

Pastor Jim introduces the word “syncretism”. Spend some time talking about that word. What does it mean? How does that definition impact us today?

Here is the definition according to Merriam-Webster: “The combination of different forms of a belief or practice.” Go around and describe examples of a few of your favorite cultural foods (i.e.. Chinese, Italian etc.). Then work together to think of ways that some cultural foods have been “syncretized” (an example might be putting ham and pineapple on a pizza and calling it Hawaiian).

You might also kick around the same idea using music or clothing (instead of food)...all can be illustrations of Syncretism.

Next talk about some of the dangers when it comes to religious syncretism as it applies to our Christian journey today. What are some ways we can combine our culture with biblical Christianity? Consider holiday celebrations (don't think good or bad, but just an awareness of how culture can slip into our Christian beliefs)...you might also use the area of health and wealth.

Paul warns about being taken captive. Together, brainstorm some ways to protect ourselves against this danger. Let your kids come up with the ideas (know God's word, prayer, fellowship, discipleship, accountability are some possible answers). Mention ideas from Pastor Jim's sermon.

A short, helpful reference: <https://www.gotquestions.org/syncretism-religious.html>

ACTIVITY:

Stay Rooted! *(Read Colossians 2:6-7)*

Items: Houseplant, glass of water, hair dryer

1. Hold up the houseplant. Ask them if they have ever seen someone break off a piece of plant and put it in a jar or glass of water and put it in the window.
2. At this time, break off a stem and leaf portion and stick in a clear glass with water. Ask the kids if they notice anything different about this piece of plant. They should notice that it has no root. Ask them what will happen if you leave the plant in the water and set in the window to get sunlight for a couple of weeks.
3. Pick up the hair dryer and blow the potted plant to demonstrate that the roots hold the plant in place. Now point the blow dryer at the plant in the glass of water and demonstrate how it gets blown out onto the ground.

Explain to the kids that our Faith in God is built and strengthened by being firmly grounded in God's Word. As Christians we can't just dip ourselves (hold plant portion and dip it into the glass of water and then take it out) in God's Word on occasion to grow roots. We have to saturate ourselves daily to allow our faith roots to grow strong. We do this by reading our Bible, meditating on the scriptures, and praying. So when Satan attacks and the storms of life blow, we are not easily blown away or uprooted because our faith in the promises of God's Word holds us firmly planted.