



GROUP DISCUSSION

- ❑ **CONFIDENTIALITY** | What's said in the group stays in the group.
- ❑ **NO CROSS-TALK** | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
- ❑ **NO FIXING** | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
- ❑ **SHARING** | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

AN IDOL PROBLEM

Did you know that idolatry is mentioned over 700 times in the Bible? Idolatry is putting anything in the place of God. Idolatry is a big deal to God because He knows we can make an idol out of just about anything, whether it's our studies, a career, success, possessions or a relationship.

God doesn't want anything to get in the way of you experiencing true worship of Him. This week your group will discuss how God used Gideon to cleanse his hometown of idols and the fact that we need to cleanse ourselves of the idols that lead us away from God.

Q: *Where do you see idols in our culture today?*



DEEPER DIVE

Select 2–3 questions to discuss as a group.

GIDEON'S FIRST TASK

God chose Gideon for big things. He would be the unlikely hero to lead the Israelites in victory over the Midianites. But before Gideon would be used by God on a national scale, God used him locally in his own hometown.

Q: Have a volunteer read Judges 6:25–32. How does Gideon show courage in this story?

Q: Gideon's fear of God made him act, despite the opposition he faced from people in his hometown. What does it mean to fear God? What does that look like in your day-to-day life?



REFLECTION AND NEXT STEPS

Select 2–3 questions from this section to answer.

THE PROBLEM AND SOLUTION TO IDOLATRY

God designed us with real needs and He intends for us to go to Him to get those needs met. The problem with idolatry is that we go to idols to get our real needs met. We go to idols for some of the following:

- *Protection, power and control* – money, power, anger, strength, education
- *Fruitfulness and prosperity* – possessions, productivity, marriage, shopping, social media likes, image
- *Stability and security* – worship of planning and exercise, fear of change, insurance of the future, security and savings, holding on to what is known
- *Safety and relief* – people-pleasing, avoidance of failure, lying to look good, guilt motivation, fear of man or the future, worry, stress
- *Comfort and pleasure* – pornography, entertainment, alcohol, food
- *Victory or release from oppression* – power plays, a need to always win, a competitive spirit, comparison,

rivalry, vengeance, pride and boasting

- *Identity and direction* – good luck charms, superstitions, family traditions, generational sins¹

Cleansing opens the door for God's work of deliverance. This way of cleansing is through repentance and faith. God wants us to remove our idols and replace them with true worship of Him which can't happen until false worship of idols is removed. When an idol is removed, it results in release and blessing

Q: *Consider the list above. Which of these idols are you most vulnerable to?*

Q: *Where would you like to see release and blessing in your life right now?*



PRAY

Pray for God to reveal any idol that is keeping you from experiencing true worship of Him. Take your time and listen for God to speak to you. Ask God to cleanse you of the idol and give you the courage to repent and the faith to believe His gospel, which promises deliverance from sin through the person and work of Jesus Christ.

ENDNOTES:

1. Dave Patty, *No Other Gods (Frydlant nad Ostravici, Czech Republic: Josiah Venture Ministries, 2019)*, 115.