**Fellowship CommUnity Group**

 **Discussion Guide for Leaders**

*Series: no other gods*

*Sermon: The First Commandment*

 *5-5-19*

1. **Getting To Know Each Other** Ask everyone in the group to answer. Opening Question: **What are you looking forward to most about summer?**
* **Opening Prayer**. (Either leader, host home or someone who is willing to pray out loud)

*(Notes from message for reference only – use only as needed)*

**\*\***Use Sermon notes bulletin insert

* **Exodus 20**
* > You shall have no other gods before me.
* **What did God mean by this?** I am to be your one and only God.
* **What was unique about this command**? It was unprecedented.
* **What reasons did God give for the basis of this command?**
* 1) Who he is – I am the LORD your God!
* 2) What he had done – I brought you out of bondage and slavery.
* **The Danger of Idolatry**
* > The danger of idolatry is not the idol itself, it is what our hearts make of the idol.
* **>** Idolatry always starts internally in the heart and then moves to the external act of worship.
* **Idolatry Defined**: Idolatry is the attributing of worth or worship to any person or thing that rightfully belongs only to God.
* **Truths of Idolatry**
* 1) God has always demanded exclusive worship.
* 2) There have always been and always will be plenty of other gods clamoring for our worship.
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* **Why do we have trouble recognizing our idols?** The reason we have trouble recognizing our own private idols is not because we don’t have any but because we have so many to choose from.
* **Questions to Reveal Idolatry**
* 1) What do you desire?
* 2) What do you trust in?
* 3) What do you fear most?

**Into The Text** (15 Minutes) (Leaders: This time is not meant to be application yet, this is time in the Word, before we seek to apply truth, we need to understand the truth. The section after this one will focus on application.)

1. Ask someone to read Exodus 20:1-3. *Ask: What is the significance of V1? Why did God say that he was ‘your God’? Why is that important to our worship of God? Why did God tell the people that he had brought them out of the bondage of Egypt as a basis for their exclusive worship?*
2. *Ask*: *What did God prove to the nation of Israel and to the Egyptians with the ten plagues? How did the plagues demonstrate that there are no other gods before him? Why did the gods of the other nations not have the same requirements of exclusive worship?*
3. Consider that the people of Israel came out of hundreds of years of slavery in Egypt*. Ask: When God gave this first command (v3) to the people of Israel, how would they have understood it? How would you explain V3 to someone who read it for the first time?*

**Application & Discussion** (15-20 Minutes)

1. Say: **Let’s move to application and discussion**. *Ask: Do you have idols in your life? Yes or No?*
2. *If there are no other gods, why does it matter if we worship false gods? Is idolatry an external problem or an internal problem? Explain and discuss.*
3. *Ask: If our hearts are captivated by something other than God, does the idol itself really matter? How does God view it if we just move from one idol to another? Is that progress? What would be an example of that? Are some idols socially acceptable?*
4. Pastor Marc gave this definition of idolatry - Idolatry is the attributing of worth or worship to any person or thing that rightfully belongs only to God*. Ask: Do you agree/disagree? How would you define idolatry? How does our own definition of idolatry help us to see idolatry for what it is?*
5. *Ask: What idols are competing for your affections in your life right now?*
6. Ask: *Which of the following questions helps you most to identify idols in your life? 1) What do you desire most? 2) What do you trust in? 3) What do you fear most?*

**Closing Prayer Time**: (10-12 Minutes) **(Leader Say:**) Let’s close with a time of prayer. Let’s continue to ask God to reveal the idols of our heart to us, and ask him to help us respond as we should. (*Ask someone to open, let people pray as they feel led, and then leader closes.)*