

INTRO

- What was a summer highlight for you?
- What is your favorite season of the year?
- Who was your childhood actor/actress crush?

READ

Exodus 20:1-17 (the Ten Commandments)
(perhaps 2 or 3 people who like reading out loud each take a section)

Romans 1:24-25

REFLECT

The first commandment is to have no other gods before me. Martin Luther taught that when we break the other nine commandments it is because we have already broken the first by making something else our functional saviour. For example, when we lie, we have already rejected God as our saviour and have chosen the lie to save us – i.e., to protect our image/reputation.

We all have idols, but most of us are not aware of what they are. Part of maturity is knowing your idols and becoming spiritually self-aware.

Qu: Do you know your idols?

Augustine taught one way to look at sin is disordered loves. For example, our work is good but if we love our career more than we love our family then we will work longer hours than we should and hurt our family.

Notice that the passage in Romans says that we worship **and serve** the created things. We always end up serving the things we worship but, in the end, idols always let us down.

Only Jesus can bear the weight of all our greatest longings and needs and invites us to place our worship and trust in Him.

Discovering your idols

These diagnostic questions can help you unearth your idols.

Qu: What thing if you lost it could almost mean that you would lose the will to live? What thing if you lost it could mean that almost all significance and value would be drained out of your life?

Qu: What makes you anxious? (Uncontrollable emotions are sometimes a sign that one of your idols is being threatened).

Qu: What is the line between proper planning for the future and an idol of control?

RESPOND

- Prayer is the process by which we ask ourselves: I see this truth in the Bible and if I really believed it how would I be different? What negative emotions would not be there if this idol was not in my life? What behavior would not be there? What sin (idol) beneath the sin (behavior) do I need to confess? Oh Lord, I do not really live this way! Finally, how can I praise God for this promise or truth.
- What encouraged and challenged you most from today's discussion?
- How can you practically apply what you're learning to your personal life?

PRAY

- Pray for one another to become more spiritually self-aware.
- Pray for one another to discover our idols and to see the beauty of Jesus more clearly.

"The heart is so constituted that the only way to dispossess it of an old affection is through the expulsive power of a new one." – Thomas Chalmers