



DISCIPLE GROUP CURRICULUM CURRICULUM GUIDE WK 4: MAY 16 & 19

GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS:

FAMILY CAMP - Family Camp is a unique opportunity for families of all generations and life stages to deepen their relationship with God and each other. Family includes anyone - moms, dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings, teachers and coaches. Anyone who is playing a critical role in raising up our youth.

Two opportunities: June 17-20 OR June 20-23

Learn more and sign up at coe22.com/familycamp.

MEMORY VERSE: *Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. – 1 Samuel 12:24*

THIS WEEK'S READING PLAN:

Mon: 1 Samuel 5:1-12

Tues: Exodus 20:1-6

Wed: Isaiah 42:1-9

Thurs: Isaiah 44:6-23

Fri: Matthew 4:1-11

Sat: Psalm 115

PROPHETS PRIESTS KINGS - WEEK 4: THE LORD IS ONE

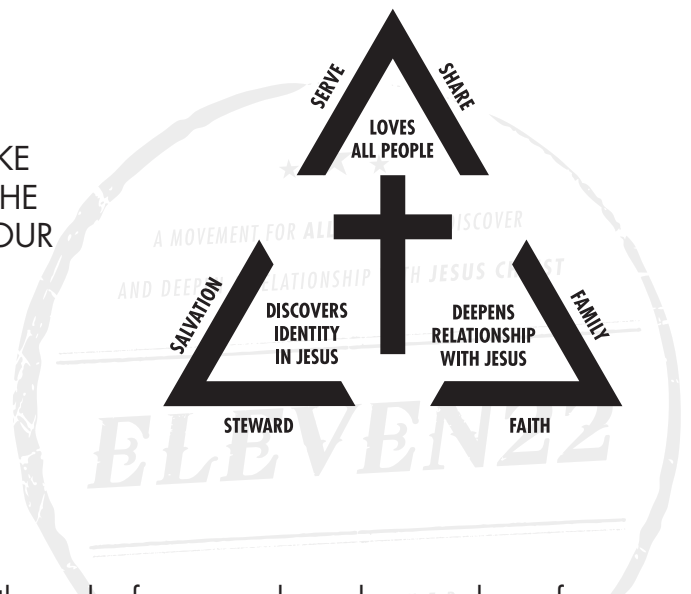
THE POINT: "GOD WILL NOT CUDDLE WITH, MAKE ROOM FOR OR SHARE HIS THRONE WITH IDOLS. HE SMASHES THEM. FOR THE GLORY OF GOD AND OUR OWN JOY, SO SHOULD WE.

TEXTS: 1 SAMUEL 5:1-12

TEACHING & DIALOGUE

Have someone read 1 Samuel 5:1-12 out loud.

1. It was common practice for the Philistines to take the gods of conquered peoples as a show of power. Often, they would worship them as well as their own. What is the author of 1 Samuel wanting the readers to know by sharing the account of the ark of God being placed by Dagon? (*He is powerful. God will not be considered equal to a false God. He does not share glory with idols and they MUST fall; even when we think we can set them up again, they will never prevail.*)



2. Idols in the 21st century most likely look different than carved images. They can be physical, or even psychological/emotional. In what ways do we treat our idols the same way the Philistines treated the ark of God and Dagon? *(As American Christians, the blessings we expect from God become the idols we believe we deserve from God. We deserve the prestigious job, great relationship, comfortable home or perfect life. We ask God to bless those things, instead of taking up our cross and following Jesus.)*
3. Where do you find your identity/comfort in an idol(s)? Choosing this over God, what are we also choosing to do with God? *(Examples: Money, sports, kids, spouse, job, car, friends, home, getting "likes".....We answer "What shall we do with God, by moving him to the side, or if He is already to the side, then farther away. We believe a thing will fulfill a void, that can only be filled by God's love.....His son Jesus!)*
4. Turn to **page 21** in your Prophets Priests Kings journal and look at the chart. Which of the heart/core idols is causing us to seek the idols we mentioned in question 3? How do you see this play out in your life and what does the gospel say in response to our identities? *(Look at the list in the book. For example, if comfort is the idol, could signing up for a mission trip that you know will make you less comfortable be a next step of obedience? Leaders please share as you feel led.)*

Leaders: This may be a good time to stop and pray with your group. Lift up the strongholds and idols people have been struggling with. While there are practical steps we can take, ultimately the LORD is the one who reveals and breaks the idols in our lives. Consider even breaking up into smaller groups to do this.

Have someone read Psalm 115 out loud.

5. This Psalm is a song of praise to the Lord. What characteristics of God are being praised? *(He is loving, faithful, the provider (help), the protector (shield), and the Maker of heaven and earth.)*
6. Read verses 2-8 again out loud. What is the comparison made between idols and those who trust in them? *(Idols are lifeless. They hold no power, or breathe. Those that trust idols, will be just like them. Without the gospel, we are spiritually dead. Trusting in Jesus brings new life and the Holy Spirit to guide us.)*
7. If we focus on who God is and what He has done, it changes our mindset. What truth do you want to focus on to combat the idol you shared earlier? *(What bible verse is there that will help to tear down that idol?)*

ACTION STEP

List out the things you idolize in life, that's anything that brings you more joy than the Lord. Knowing your idols, its now time to unearth the core, or heart, idol associated with it. (HINT: use the "epi-tests" Pastor Joby mentioned. What gives you "epi-anger", "epi-worry" and "epi-sadness")

On that same list, next to each heart idol, find a verse(s) that proclaims God's truth about that idol.

Let each verse be a reminder of how to tear down that idol.

(Example: *If control is your struggle and it causes you to worry often, you could use Philippians 4:4-7. It specifically tells us to rejoice and not be anxious and bring our requests to God.)*

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