



Christian Living

Small Group Work Sheet
November 7, 2010

Part 1 - Ice Breaker

- Pastor Kurt talked about worshipping the God of our stomachs, did he go too far in this illustration? (After discussion, pass around the potato chips, sour cream and Doritos.)

Part 2 - Review the sermon

- Kurt said, “God is a ceaseless worshipper.” What does that mean about God and his hunger for worship?
- Since we were created in the image of God, what role in our life will worship play?
- According to Romans 11:36-12:1, worship involves glory and sacrifice. Looking at your calendar and checkbook, (I know this is hard) what is getting the glory and sacrifice?
- When it comes to the schedules of our children, what is our culture teaching them to worship? As parents, what are we teaching them to worship by going along with the culture? Is it possible to change?
- Pastor Kurt talked about marriage problems, alcohol problems and sexual addictions being, at their root, worship problems. Do you think this is right? To what extent do you agree or disagree? How were your thoughts changed about how to approach these issues in your life or the life of someone else?
- Pastor Kurt said that when we worship what God made, in place of God, it will always lead to worshipping a body, nudity and sexual perversions. Do you agree or disagree? Read Romans 1 and decide for yourself.
- Discuss the *idol finder* questions from the sermon. There are more in the *digging deeper* section.
 - Who or what are my external idols?
 - What do I plan and pray for?
 - What parts of the Bible do I doubt or disbelieve?
 - Who or what, if taken from my life, would cause me to not walk faithfully with God?
 - What is my functional heaven?
 - What good thing has become a God thing?

- What is an idol in your life that you repented of in the past or need to repent of now?
- What is your plan for *personal renewal* and why is it so important to Christian living?

Part 3 - Digg deeper ...get the rest of the story.

More Questions to help you find your idols:

Where do I give the first-fruits of my time and money?

The Bible talks about first-fruits. This is giving God the first and the best. Who gets your first money? Is it God or someone or something else? Right now, if I gave you \$10,000 (Trust me, this is purely hypothetical, don't get your hopes up.) what is the first thing that comes to mind you would do with it? When we say, "I would go get this, or I would go get that." What comes to mind may be your idol?

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, that's where your heart is." If you want to know where your heart is, just follow your budget! It's not just how much we give but what do we give to first. Some of us say, "I have all these financial obligations and if there is anything left, God gets that." As we both know, there is usually nothing left. Like squeezing an empty tube of toothpaste, God gets just a dab.

To whom do you give first of your money? To whom do you give first of your time? What do you give your brightest and most awake moments? Does it go to reading the Scriptures? Does it go to prayer? Does it go to serving your wife, your husband, your children or other people God has put in your life? Do those whom God has given you to love always get the last and the worst part of us?

Who or what are your internal idols?

I am not talking about the stuff that everybody sees but the stuff in your heart. Some of us know what the Bible says, but we won't believe it. We know the Bible says God loves us. We tell others God loves them but we don't believe God loves us. We know the Bible says Jesus forgives all sins, We tell this to other people but we don't believe it is true for us. We know the Bible says God is in control but every time something bad happens we freak out. We know the Bible says God is in control but when we're not in control, we go out of control.

Our view of God really matters. It is not just what we teach that matters, but what we actually believe. Only you know your heart. Do you really believe Jesus is God? Do you really believe God loves you? Do you really believe Jesus has forgiven all of your sin? Do you really believe God is in ultimate control of your life and no matter what happens, you can trust Him? What is your internal idol?

Who or what mediates between you and God?

1 Timothy 2:5 says there is one mediator between God and men. What can happen is in an act of idolatry, we use people or things to function as our mediator. For some people, it is a certain worship style. They can't worship God unless worship is a certain way. You take away their song, you don't sing their songs their way with their instruments and they can't worship. A certain song and a particular style of worship won't bring you close to God, Jesus brings you close to God.

Other people think if they hang out with the right person, they would be closer to God. I remember seeing this in a large church I attended. One of the pastors talked about his “spiritual director.” The spiritual director was helping him get closer to God. That’s idolatry. That is guru-ism. If you get close to the guru, you will get close to God because the guru is closer to God than we are. This reminds me of Luke Skywalker hanging out with Yoda. Guru-ism doesn’t get you closer to God, Jesus gets us closer to God. He’s the only mediator. It amazes me how many people get this wrong and import Eastern mystic philosophy into their worship of God. Just hang with Jesus!

What is the idol in the home?

We tend to see the idols in other cultures much more clearly than our own. In Hindu homes, they bow down to statues and deities (in reality demons) and have little shrines to them. We see this and it is clear to us they are worshiping idols.

Walk into our homes and the chairs are all facing the TV. Our God plugs in! Of course, it isn’t a sin to watch TV (there are more TV’s in America than people, be careful, they could take us over!) but how many people sacrifice their family to worship the god that plugs in? All the chairs face that god and if someone should talk while the god is speaking it is, “Shut up! The game is on. God is playing.” We ignore one another. We don’t connect with one another. We don’t communicate with one another. Why don’t we do this? Because the god that plugs in is on the throne and he is speaking. We are paying homage to him. He is the glory, the big heavy. We give our time, energy and devotion in sacrifice to him. He is the idol we worship.