

1. How much responsibility does a parent have in the spiritual lives of their children?
2. How does it change our perspective to realize that some people aren't rejecting us, they are rejecting God?
3. Why might we consider Israel's request for a king to be another form of idolatry?*
4. What is the cost of finding a king their way instead of God's?

For question 3, perhaps consider the following quote:

What is an idol? It is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give.

A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living. An idol has such a controlling position in your heart that you can spend most of your passion and energy, your emotional and financial resources, on it without a second thought. It can be family and children, or career and making money, or achievement and critical acclaim, or saving "face" and social standing. It can be a romantic relationship, peer approval, competence and skill, secure and comfortable circumstances, your beauty or your brains, a great political or social cause, your morality and virtue, or even success in the Christian ministry. When your meaning in life is to fix someone else's life, we may call it "co-dependency" but it is really idolatry. An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, "If I have that, then I'll feel my life has meaning, then I'll know I have value, then I'll feel significant and secure." There are many ways to describe that kind of relationship to something, but perhaps the best one is worship. — Timothy Keller, [Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters](#) (New York: Riverhead Books, 2011), xix–xx.