

Small Group Guide

"False Religion" | Jeremiah 7-10

Before You Meet

Encourage group members to read Jeremiah 7-10 before gathering. **Ask them to come prepared to share one thing that stood out to them from the passage.**

Key Takeaways

- God rejects worship when it is disconnected from obedience. Obedience is itself a form of worship.
 - Three falsehoods contributed to Judah's downfall: false teaching, false facades, and false gods. Each of these remains a danger for believers today.
 - An idol is anything that takes the place of God as the most important thing in a person's life.
 - Jesus will not sit in the second seat. He must be first in every area of life.
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Discussion Questions

On Worship and Obedience

1. Pastor Joel stated that God rejects worship when it is disconnected from obedience. Where do you see this principle playing out in your own life or in the broader church culture?
2. Pastor Joel drew a distinction between worship as a scheduled event and worship as a lifestyle. What does a lifestyle of worship practically look like? What are some areas in your life that you might not have considered worship before Sunday's sermon?

On False Teaching

1. Proverbs 29:18 says that where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint. How does regular engagement with Scripture protect us from spiritual drift? What habits help

you stay anchored to the Word?

2. The false prophets in Judah kept preaching peace, prosperity, and safety even as judgment was approaching. What are some examples of false assurances that are common in today's church culture? How do we discern the difference between genuine encouragement and false comfort?

On False Facades

1. Jeremiah described Judah as a place where no one could trust their neighbor because people spoke peacefully on the outside while harboring deception on the inside. What does spiritual authenticity look like in a community of believers? What are some things that keep us from being consistent in both church and home?
2. Jeremiah 9:23-24 redirects our attention away from glory in wisdom, strength, or wealth, and toward knowing God and understanding His character. In what areas of life are you most tempted to find your identity or security in something other than your relationship with God?

On False Gods

1. Careers, financial security, possessions, relationships, and even ministry can become idols. How do you personally evaluate whether something has moved from a good gift to an idol in your life?
2. Pastor Joel mentioned that even a church can become an idol for a pastor or a congregation when it receives more affection than God Himself. How can we guard against placing more value on the institution of the church rather than Jesus?
3. Matthew 6:33 calls believers to seek His kingdom first. What does it look like in a practical, day-to-day sense to keep Christ first? What tends to push Him out of that position in your own life?

Practical Applications for the Week

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

1. **Engage the Word intentionally.** Commit to reading a portion of Scripture each day this week with the specific goal of asking, "What does this teach me about how to live, not just what to believe?"
2. **Practice consistency.** Choose one specific context outside of church, whether at work, at home, or in traffic, where you will intentionally seek to honor God in your conduct this week.
3. **Meditate on Jeremiah 9:23-24.** Use the truth of that passage as a daily prayer, asking God to help you find your glory in knowing Him rather than in your own accomplishments, abilities, or possessions.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by praying as a group. Be sensitive to topics that came up during discussion.
