

Small Group Guide: Idolatry and Faithfulness

Key Takeaways:

1. Idolatry is a serious sin that can creep into our lives subtly.
2. Throughout Israel's history, there was a cycle of faithfulness, idolatry, judgment, and restoration.
3. Modern idols may not be physical statues, but can be anything that takes priority over God in our lives.
4. We are called to be salt and light in the world, not to conform to the world's standards.
5. Building our lives on Christ, the solid rock, helps us withstand life's storms.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some examples of modern-day idols that people struggle with? How can we identify idols in our own lives?
2. The sermon mentioned that we might "do our kneeling and our bowing with our imaginations, checkbooks, search engines, and calendars." What does this mean to you? How might this apply to your life?
3. How does the cycle of faithfulness, idolatry, judgment, and restoration in Israel's history relate to our personal spiritual journeys?
4. The speaker mentioned that only 8 out of 39 kings in Israel's history were considered "good." What lessons can we learn from this about leadership and personal integrity?
5. How can we balance being "in the world but not of the world" in today's culture? What challenges do you face in this area?
6. The sermon emphasized the importance of spending time with God. How do you prioritize your time with God amidst busy schedules and distractions?

Practical Applications:

1. Screen Time Audit: This week, track your screen time and analyze how you're spending it. Is there a way to redirect some of that time to spiritual growth?
2. Idol Inventory: Take some time to reflect on potential idols in your life. Write them down and pray about how to reorder your priorities.
3. Bible Reading Challenge: Commit to reading a chapter of the Bible each day this week, focusing on passages about faithfulness to God.
4. Community Accountability: Share with the group one area where you struggle with putting other things before God. Ask for prayer and support in addressing this.
5. Salt and Light Exercise: Identify one way you can be a positive, godly influence in your workplace, school, or community this week.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, help us to recognize and remove the idols in our lives. Strengthen our faith and commitment to You. Guide us to be salt and light in our world, standing firm on the solid rock of Christ. May we prioritize our relationship with You above all else. In Jesus' name, Amen.