

## UNIT 14 | SESSION 3

**AN IDOLATROUS PEOPLE RECEIVE JUDGMENT** 2 Kings 17:6-20 MAIN POINT:

God's loving discipline is meant to lead us to repentance.

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- Read Hebrews 11:24-26. Why do you think the author describes sin as a fleeting pleasure?
- Why is sin incapable of giving us everlasting joy and happiness? Why does it leave us with feelings of shame and guilt?
- Do you feel as if you are ever taking advantage of the patience of God when it comes to your sin? If so, why?
- When has God used the discipline of a fellow believer to cause you to repent of your own sins? In what ways could He be doing it now?
- How have you experienced restoration in your relationship with God after experiencing God's discipline?

🗿 Essential Doctrine
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**Sin as Idolatry** | Sin is not only a physical act of rebellion against God, such as lying or stealing, but it is also a matter of the heart. The physical displays of sin are the fruit of what has been birthed in the heart of a person (Matt. 15:10-20). In Scripture, idolatry usually refers to bowing down to a statue made of wood or gold, worshiping created things instead of the Creator. But idolatry can take on more subtle forms: a seeking of approval, security, power, pleasure, etc. We can diagnose the idolatry of our heart by examining the areas where the desires of our heart have turned into idolatrous demands (Jas. 4:1-2).

## Christ Connection

The people of Israel sinned against God and worshiped idols. God warned them to turn from their evil ways and obey Him, but they refused and were disciplined by Him. Israel's rebellion reminds us of our idolatry and need of Jesus who perfectly obeyed God and was punished in our place.



- How is God's discipline also a means of God's grace and love?
- How might God's loving discipline mature us as believers?

## HEART 😲

- What do we share in common with the Israelites in this account?
- What are some ways we can protect ourselves from being deceived into believing that we can find ultimate happiness apart from God?

## HANDS

- How has this session personally challenged you? How will you address those challenges this week?
- Do you feel urgency to share the gospel with others? If not, how does this session help put sharing Jesus with others into the right perspective?