

Culture of Golden Calves- Ryan Johnson

Day 1: Rediscovering the True God Reading: Exodus 32:1-14 Devotional: In our modern world, it's easy to create a god in our own image - one who affirms all our choices and never challenges us. But the true God, as revealed in Scripture, is holy and calls us to holiness. Reflect on areas where you may have redefined God to fit your preferences. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any "golden calves" in your life - things you've elevated above God. Remember, God's love is unconditional, but it's also transformative. He loves us too much to leave us unchanged. Today, surrender those areas to Him and ask for the grace to worship Him in spirit and truth.

Day 2: The Power of the Indwelling Spirit Reading: Acts 2:1-21 Devotional: The disciples of Jesus longed for God's presence, but we have something even more incredible - the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This gift empowers us to live holy lives and be effective witnesses for Christ. Take time to meditate on the reality of God's Spirit living within you. How might your life look different if you fully embraced this truth? Ask God to fill you afresh with His Spirit today, and look for opportunities to step out in the power and gifts He provides.

Day 3: Confronting Sin with Love Reading: John 8:1-11 Devotional: Jesus perfectly balanced truth and grace when confronting sin. He didn't condemn the woman caught in adultery, but He also didn't condone her sin. In our culture, we often err on one side or the other - either harshly judging others or accepting all behavior as permissible. Reflect on how you can follow Jesus' example in your relationships. Ask God for wisdom to speak truth in love, and for the courage to address sin in your own life and in your community. Remember, true love seeks the highest good for others, which sometimes means loving confrontation.

Day 4: The Joy of Obedience Reading: Psalm 119:97-104 Devotional: Our culture often portrays God's commands as restrictive, but the Psalmist found great delight in God's law. When we understand God's character, we realize His commands flow from His love and are for our benefit. Consider areas where you've resisted God's instructions. How might your perspective change if you viewed obedience as a path to joy rather than a burden? Ask God to give you a love for His Word and the strength to follow it, trusting that His ways are always best.

Day 5: Becoming New Creations Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 Devotional: In Christ, we are new creations. This isn't just a one-time event, but an ongoing process of transformation. Reflect on how you've changed since coming to faith in Jesus. Are there areas where you're still clinging to old patterns or identities? Remember, you no longer have to be defined by your past, your struggles, or the labels others put on you. You are a child of God, empowered to live a new life. Today, ask God to continue His transforming work in you, and look for ways to live out your new identity in Christ.