

# LIFE GROUPS

**LEADER PAGE | Acts | WEEK 20 of 30 | Sermon date:** May 15, 2022

**Discipleship Phrase:** God's church, God's way.

**Big Idea for Series:** God's church is built on His principles.

## **Abiding** *(grow as a disciple yourself)*

As you draw near to God this week, search the hidden places of your heart. Ask the Lord to uncover the "something" that you find more important than Him. Turning towards God requires turning away from your idols. Matthew 10:39(ESV) says "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." In your daily worship continually focus on how you can love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.

## **Leading** *(facilitate your group effectively)*

This week we are going to dig into the truth behind the following statement: "Idolatry is a modern problem with an ancient solution." The solution for idolatry is authentic worship. In Exodus 20:3-6 God speaks very clearly about how we are not to worship anyone or anything on this earth above Him. We are to put Him first and when we don't, there are consequences. As you talk through question #1, ask yourself and the members of your group if their/your hearts are in a posture of only idolizing Him? Question #2 is going to dig further into the type of idolatry we find ourselves in and/or guilty of: 1. pleasure/comfort, 2. being morally righteous (I'm better than so-and-so) and 3. self-sufficiency/pride (I did that) throughout this life. Be ready to share your struggle(s) first as that will set the tone. Finally, we are going to tackle the truth behind "authentic worship is the antidote for all forms of idolatry." Talk through some of the ways you worship, that keep God where he belongs, at the forefront, of your life. This could be intentional prayer where you seek His will and abide in it, could be through song, tithing, spending a day with Him...the list goes on. Share what happens to your heart posture when you worship first and how that changes your perspective as you go through each day.

## **Shepherding** *(know, feed, lead, and protect the sheep)*

Idolatry is sneaky because it often will disguise itself as something harmless or even good perhaps. Pride can cloak itself as passion, moral righteousness can hide under the guise of truth. Pleasure and comfort can masquerade as blessing. Identifying idols for what they are is a step in the right direction, ruthlessly weeding them out is another. Both are easier said than done. Fortunately, both are easier to accomplish in community. Let your group be that community for you and all who attend.

## **Church Announcements** *(be in the know & share with your group)*

New Southeast U Class starts May 18<sup>th</sup>! Healing from Church Hurt, taught by Tom Fitzgerald. Click [here](#) to register!

### **REMEMBER:**

**"Every group deserves a great leader."**

# LIFE GROUPS

**SERIES| Acts | WEEK 19 of 30 | Sermon date:** May 8, 2022

## **Welcome/Introductions & Opening Prayer**

**Ice Breaker, God Moments, or Highs & Lows** (*choose what fits best*)

**Weekly Vision** (*Announcements, The “Why”, Goal, Outreach, Guidelines, & Branching*)

*Guidelines: Confidentiality, Avoid Crosstalk, Avoid fixing & Rescuing, Use “I” Statements, Contribute over Consume, Be Mindful of Self (allow all to share & use humor responsibly).*

**Ask a Hook Question** (*a thought-provoking question*)

Who was your idol growing up and why?

**Recap the Message** (*ask a couple people to share*)

**Scripture References** (*Read scriptures directly from the Bible*)

**Exodus 20:3-6** (ESV)

**Implications** (*takeaways from the message*)

1. Every weakness is a strength over-extended.
2. Moral superiority mutes the message of the Gospel and alienates the people who are looking for the hope it offers.
3. The way God designed you may be the primary way the enemy will attack you.

**Discussion Questions** (*going beyond the surface*)

1. Read Exodus 20:3-6. What's the main point of this passage? What does it this say about God's design for our heart vs. our own desires?
2. What form of idolatry do you struggle with the most; idolatry of pleasure and comfort, moral righteousness, or self-sufficiency? Or perhaps one not listed.
3. If the antidote for idolatry is authentic worship, what might you need to update in your worship of God to move towards becoming more authentic?

**Closing Prayer** (*ask openly for a volunteer*)