

January 20, 2019



Exodus 20:4-6

SERMON SUMMARY

⁴“You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Exodus 20:4-6

Idolatry Promises

- Connection—with a god or a higher power
- Influence—on things to happen (ex. if you worship the fertility idol, you’ll get more children)
- Success
- Joy

Idolatry Delivers

- Separation—from God
 - Substitutes can’t replace the real things
- Worthlessness
 - Psalm 135:15-18, Jeremiah 2:5
- Failure (verse 5)
 - Idolatry brings punishment to future generations
- Sorrow

God Promises

- Faithful love—stretching to a thousand generations (verse 5)

DISCUSSION

Reminders for small group leaders:

- We want everyone to interact with God's Word. Please have Bibles available for students who don't have one. We have a limited amount of Bibles available at church, so remind your people to bring theirs if they have one. **Be sure to open up your Bibles together during small group!**
 - Set aside a time to **pray** for each other during every POD. Try not to rush through this time as it's good to have people pray for each other.
 - Regularly **recap** how your POD is doing with your co-leaders. Are you meeting your goals? How can you help your people grow in relationship with God and with each other? Is there anyone in your POD who needs encouragement, prayer, or a meeting with one of you this week?
 - The teaching happened on Sunday at church. **The purpose of small groups is to ask two questions:** 1) *What is God saying to me in His Word?*, 2) *What is He asking me to do in response?* Your role is to help everyone answer these two questions so that God can do His work of transforming hearts and lives.
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RECAP with your co-leader/REFLECT by yourself

- *What stood out to you/encouraged you/challenged you, etc from the message?*
- *What is the learning point and/or action point you want the people in your small group to leave with?*
- *How would you summarize the sermon in one or two sentences?*

QUESTIONS

Choose (if any) questions that would be good for your group to discuss, or make up your own!

POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION

- *Many times, idols represent what we put our hope in or what we put our worth in—whether it be:*
 - *Our happiness (via children, money, no suffering, etc)*
 - *Our success (via money, job title, degrees accumulated, etc)*
 - *Our image (our worth comes via physical appearance, what others think of us, etc)*
 - *Ourselves (I use my time how I want, I want to be in control, I get to say how I live)*
 - *Our work (I'm worth something if I accomplish this at work, I'm worthless without success at my job, etc)*
- *From "New Morning Mercies" by Paul David Tripp:*
 - *"Hope always includes an expectation and an object. I am hoping for something and hoping that something or someone will deliver it.*
 - *Hope, to be hope, has to fix what is broken. Hope that doesn't address your needs isn't very hopeful. You place your hope in your mechanic only if he has ability to fix what's broken on your car.*
 - *What you place your hope in will set the direction of your life. Whether you know it or not, your path is directed by hope."*

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Getting to know you

- **Read Acts 17:16-31.** There is not one person in the world that doesn't worship something, like what Paul saw in the passage. How would you describe what it looks like to worship idols today?
- What are idols the average person in Corvallis (or student on campus) has?
 - For example: money, success of children/grandchildren, image, prestige, success, power, work, etc
- **Read Exodus 20:4-6.** *The Israelites worshipped physical idols because they hoped for (wanted the idols to deliver) wealth, rain for their crops, success, children, etc.*
 - What are people today hoping their idols will deliver? What are people hoping will fix what is broken?
 - *For example: their happiness, their accomplishments, their success, their avoidance of all things bad, feelings of worth, etc*

Into the Bible/Application

- **Read Romans 15:13.** *We can either put our hope in ourselves or in God. The NIV says, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*
 - What kind of direction will your life lead if you set your hope in any of the idols we talked about?
 - What does it look like to "overflow" with hope as we live trusting God (instead of ourselves or others)?
- **Read 1 John 5:20-21.** How do we guard ourselves from idols?
- *Think about what you're hoping your idols will deliver (ex. your happiness, success, accomplishments, feelings of worth, a good image, avoidance of all things bad, etc). What's (or who is) the underlying idol of all these hopes? Is it yourself or another person?*
- **Go back to Acts 17:16-31.** *We were created, or wired, to place our hope in something or someone. Look at verses 23-27. Just as the Athenians were searching for an unknown god, people today are searching for the true God. And God wants people to find Him! (verse 27)*

PRAY

Ask God to continue revealing the idols in your lives

Ask God for help to make Jesus your only hope, and to remove your idols and replace them with Jesus

Pray for OSU, Corvallis, and the world—for those who are searching for the true God

ANNOUNCEMENTS

College students

POD Retreat is here! It'll be on January 25-27 at the Oregon coast. Sign up for POD Retreat at osuepic.com this week. Cost is \$70.

See you at **Epic on Thursday night** at 7:30pm at MU13!

All church

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Sign up for Worldchangers mission trip by emailing Linne at boddys@comcast.net by January 27

- Southern Oregon (July 15-20), construction and church planting

2018 Giving Statements are available. Pick yours up in the Welcome Center on Sunday and ensure your statement is correct.

Women

Secret Sister Reveal Party will be on Monday, February 4 at 6:30pm in the Welcome Center. Please bring a final gift for your Secret Sister. We'll also choose new Secret Sisters at the end of the party. If you would like to participate this year, bring a small gift to share with another newcomer. The survey is available at the Welcome Counter; please fill it out by February 4.

Youth

All middle school and high school students are invited to the **Youth Winter Retreat** from February 1-3. They're headed to Little Trail Lodge at Government Camp at Mount Hood. They'll have the church parking lot at 4pm on Friday and return at 6pm on Sunday. For price information and to register, visit www.grantavebc.org/winter-retreat.