

T H E T E N

COMMANDMENTS
THROUGH THE EYES OF JESUS

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 2 August 27, 2023

"Idols, Images and the Invisible God"



OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, please help us to reflect your image to others. Help us to love with your love and see with your eyes. Father, fill our hearts with compassion and help us to not make an idol of anything, but to worship you alone. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Exodus 20:4-5a (NIV)

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. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them;"

John 1:1-4, 14 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Genesis 1:27 (NIV)

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.*

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INTRODUCTION

For as long as human beings have been around, we have longed to see God. We want to see, feel and touch our gods. The ancient Egyptians made idols that not only came to represent their gods, but they believe they were the *essence* of their gods. The second Commandment, given to the Israelites during this time, forbids the creation of idols or images to represent God.

We may not worship idols like the ancient Egyptians, but we have our own idols. God forbids us from making an idol or to represent God in our ideology, other people, church buildings, Bibles, or anything else. While we are not supposed to create idols for ourselves, God came and showed us who he is in Jesus. If we want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. In addition to knowing God through Jesus, God calls us to represent Him on this earth so people can see God in us.

QUESTIONS

1. Some people in Biblical times consulted images or idols when making important decisions. What are some sources today you might consult about what to do instead of God?
2. Read Exodus 20:4-5a (on page 1). The second Commandment might seem obsolete. In our developed world, who worships hand-carved stone or wood figures? What (besides money and fame - the most obvious, easy answers) do some people worship?
3. The ancient Egyptians used to carry their idols representing the gods. Yahweh does not ask us to carry idols of Him, he promises to carry our burdens. What has helped you discern the value of a God who can “carry” you, rather than any god you have to carry on your own strength?
4. Read John 1-4, 14 (on page 1). While we are not supposed to create Idols for ourselves, God came and showed us who he is in Jesus. What does that mean for you?
5. Read Genesis 1:27 (on page 1). This passage does not mean that physically you look like God. It means that you were created to be like God. We were created to represent God to one another. How do you represent God to someone else?

FINAL APPLICATION

What can you do this week to represent God to someone in need?