The Ten Commandments: Commandment 1 Ben Weber Deuteronomy 5:1-7, Deuteronomy 6:4-9 King’s Chapel

October 14, 2018

**The First Commandment:**

**The Christian Life is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Christian Life is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Solution is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**



The Worship of God

October 14th, 2018



Group Discussion Guide:

**Idol Workshop for Community Groups**

To paraphrase Martin Luther, every sin is in some way a breaking of the first commandment (“You shall have no other gods before me”). The purpose of this community group workshop is to help each member learn to identify and repent of the “sin beneath the sin” so that they can experience gospel-centered transformation.

**Read aloud together**: **What is an idol?**  *An idol is anything we believe we need, apart from Jesus or in addition to Jesus, to make us happy, satisfied, or fulfilled. An idol arises when we desire something more than we desire Jesus; when we fear things rather than God; when we worship ourselves rather than Christ; when we put our trust in anything other than God. The real reason we resort to idolatry is not hard to find. When we fall away from God, we experience great lack, need, deficiency, and alienation. In order to fulfill our lives we resort to idolatry. We love, desire, trust, fear and worship other things apart from God to give us love, joy, peace, freedom, status, identity, control, happiness, security, fulfillment, health, pleasure, significance, acceptance, and respect. Sometimes our idols are obviously wrong. However, the things we desire are often good in themselves, such as succeeding in a career. If this becomes an inordinate desire, it has become a false god. Even good things become idols when they start to rule our lives.*

**Opening Questions:**

* When you were a kid who did you “idolize”? It could have been a celebrity, athlete, family member, hometown hero, etc.
* What are some of the “Respectable Idols” that your social circles tend to idolize?

**Group Breakout Time:** (Break out into smaller groups and work through the following section together)

*“Idolatry is difficult to detect, but we can develop a habit of seeing the ‘red flags’ that alert us when self is on the throne. Red flags are surface sins that call our attention to what is underneath. Our* ***surface sins*** *(like gossip, lust, worry, etc.)**are only symptoms of a deeper problem. Underneath every external sin is a* ***heart idol****—a false god that has eclipsed the true God in our thoughts or affections.”*

Take 10 minutes and give short, brief answers to as many of the following questions as you can:

* What am I the proudest of? What types of things give me a sense of self-worth?
* What do I think most naturally or easily about? What do I think about in my free time? What preoccupies my mind?
* What do I rely on, trust in or comfort myself with when things go bad or get difficult?  (Examples: pleasure from fun/food/partying/sex/pornography, physical appearance, control, gifts/abilities, status, performance)
* What is my greatest nightmare or fear? What do I worry about most?  (Examples:  people’s rejection, losing control, losing or not gaining a reputation, the unknown of my future, exposure of my sin/past, commitment, death, failure, not having a relationship/getting married)

Use the *Idols of The Heart* worksheet handout and circle any of the statements that resonate with you. Then use the summary chart to identify common themes. Share something you learned about yourself in your smaller breakout group.

**Large Group Wrap-up** (For the remainder of your group time, come back together as a big group read aloud and discuss)

“To replace idols, you must learn to rejoice in the particular thing Jesus provides that replaces that particular idol of your heart. Whenever you see your heart in the grip of some kind of disobedience or misery, some temptation, anxiety, anger, etc., always ask these questions…”

* How are these effects being caused by an inordinate hope for someone or something to give me what only Jesus can really give me?
* How does Christ give me so much more fully and graciously and suitably the very things I am looking for elsewhere? What do you need to believe about the gospel right now regarding this idol?
* What is one promise from God’s Word you can use to fight this lie/core idol?

Tim Keller

**Close in Prayer**

Rejoice together as a group and consider what He has done and what He has given you.