

1. Motivate

What are things our society tends to worship?

A video introduction to the lesson is available.
View it at https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_ughxmpmh

2. Transition

Many people or places or things can be the most important element in our lives.

- By definition, that makes them idols – more important than God
- As believers, God should have first place in every aspect of life.

3. Bible Study

3.1 He Alone Is God

Listen for why to devote yourself to God.

Exodus 20:1-6 (NIV) And God spoke all these words: 2 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. 3 "You shall have no other gods before me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol 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; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments.

Why do you think God prefaced the Ten Commandments by announcing who He is?

Because that is true, what are they commanded to avoid?

So, with the first commandment “no other gods before me,” how do Christians violate this commandment?

How is this first concept (no other gods) really different from the second commandment which speaks of actual physical objects which someone might bow down to?

Why would God *not* want any physical representations of Himself to be used in worship?

How does God respond to those who sin against Him?

Why do you think this exclusive loyalty is the first command, foundational to all the rest?

9/6/2020

Place God First

How do you guard against or fight idolatry (actual objects or influences) in your own life?

3.2 He Alone Is Good and Completely Trustworthy

Listen for a poetic expression of devotion to God.

Psalm 16:1-4a (NIV) Keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. 2 I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing." 3 As for the saints who are in the land, they are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight. 4 The sorrows of those will increase who run after other gods.

What brief prayer does the psalmist offer?

What confession does he make?

What was another element of trusting in God that brought him pleasure?

When has your relationships to fellow believers brought you joy and encouragement?

What is his concern about those who pursue other gods? How might verse 4a relate to Exodus 20:5-6?

When are you most tempted to put your trust in something besides the Lord?

What experiences from your life reflect the truth that God is good?

3.3 He Alone Is the Way to Eternal Life

Listen for how God is for us and with us.

Psalm 16:9-11 (NIV) Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, 10 because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. 11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

What resulted from the psalmist's contemplation on the assurance of God's presence?

9/6/2020

Place God First

What did David expect of his future? (16:11)

What words in these verses reinforce the idea that hope in the Lord has eternal benefit?

How had his confidence in God affected his view of death?

How does your faith in God affect your perspective on death?

Who could be the "Holy One"? How might it apply to Christ?

What does it look like to place God first in your life?

Application

Acknowledge.

- The starting point for any personal change begins with honestly acknowledging what needs to change.
- If you do not put God first in any area in your life, confess that to God.
- Ask for His forgiveness and help in putting Him first in your thoughts, words, and actions.

Begin.

- Make a commitment to begin each day by putting God first.
- You can develop the habit of putting God first more consistently by reminding yourself of this truth before you start your day.
- This will look different for each person, but it could mean saying a prayer when you first wake up, reading your Bible before you do anything else, or quoting a Scripture from memory before you pick up your phone in the morning.

Track.

- Consider keeping a note-pad or journal this week where you write down every time you sought to put God's perspective and His guidance first in your life.
- You may want to share this with a friend as a way to encourage your friend to do the same.

ABANDON
 AFTER
 APART
 BEFORE
 BODY
 BOW
 BROUGHT
 CHILDREN
 COMMANDMENTS
 DECAY
 DELIGHT
 DOWN
 EARTH
 EGYPT
 ETERNAL
 FATHERS
 FOURTH
 GENERATION
 GLAD
 GLORIOUS
 GODS
 GOOD
 GRAVE
 HATE
 HEART
 HEAVEN

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B	O	E	U	G	T	N	E	F	I	R	E	A	T	O	N	O	D	N	A	B	A	A	R
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IDOL
 INCREASE
 JEALOUS
 KEEP
 LAND
 LORD
 LOVE
 MAKE
 OTHER
 PATH
 PLEASURES
 PRESENCE
 PUNISHING
 REFUGE
 REST
 RUN
 SAFE
 SAINTS
 SECURE
 SLAVERY
 SORROWS
 SPOKE
 TAKE
 THIRD
 WATERS
 WORDS
 WORSHIP



Humph! This confound pandemic has put those words in the grid every which way ... up, down, right, left, and even diagonally! You must find them in order to get the full benefit of the Bible Lesson. Humph! I suppose you'll get stuck, so help is available at <https://tinyurl.com/y5r5aleu> along with your precious favorite, the Crossword. And even a coloring page!