

BASIC

BASIC:Idolatry

Opening Question: What is an idol? How do you define idolatry? Do you think idolatry is an issue in our lives today? Why/why not?

ROOT OF IDOLATRY Read Romans 1:20-25

- Sunday we heard that in this passage worship means "to be in awe of" and serve means "to sell out to" something created rather than the Creator.
- What are we "in awe of" as a culture? Individually?
- What do you see others "selling out to"? Have you sold out to things in your life that you regret?
- Why would these to categories be any concern for God?

A GOLDEN CALF

Read Exodus 32:1-6

- Where in the journey was Israel during this sinful episode? Is that significant?
- What stands out regarding the circumstances Israel was in?
- Who provided the gold for the calf? Why might that be significant to God?
- Did it help that Aaron proclaimed a "festival to the LORD"? Why or why not?

OUR GOLDEN CALVES

- Sunday we heard a partial list of some possible idols in our lives, including: statues; celebrities; sports; politics; finances; sexuality; work; intellect; ability; family; churches; pastors; crosses; and bibles. Do you agree that each of these can be idols? Why or why not?
- What other idols do you see us or others creating to "dance around" in our lives?
- Of those idols we are discussing, which do you dislike the most? Which make you the most uncomfortable? Why do you think there is such a distinction?
- Why do you think idols are an offense to God?
- How do we combat them in our own lives?
- How should we approach them in the lives of others?

A JEALOUS GOD

Read Exodus 34:14

- What does it mean that God gives Himself the name Jealous?
- What is the difference between God's jealousy, and our jealousy?
- How can we avoid idolatry and glorify God at the same time? (*Hint: See Matthew 6:33*)