



WORSHIP

Here are some ideas on how to start your evening off. Pick any of the following:

- Ask a discipleship question (e.g. Who are you intentionally building up in the faith?)
- Ask a question about how they are living on mission (e.g. When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone?)
- Share evidences of God's grace (There are different ways to pose this. e.g. Share how you have seen Fruit of the Spirit growth in each other)
- Invite 1-2 individuals to share their faith story (e.g. life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, how Jesus has changed them, what Jesus is doing in their life lately)

OPENING COMMENT

While the 1st Commandment has to do with worshiping the right God, the 2nd Commandment has to do with worshiping the right God in the right way. We are tempted to worship God, not as He is and how *He* wants, but according to our own conceptions of God and how we want.

READ THE TEXT: Exodus 20:4-6

⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.
⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share with the group about a time that you did the *right* thing the *wrong* way. What was the result?
2. Differentiate and summarize the 1st & 2nd Commandments. How do they inform one another?
3. What does it mean when it says that God is jealous (v.5)?
4. In what ways does an idol minimize and miss it with its attempts to capture the essence of God?
5. Why does God punish children for their fathers' sin? Is this unjust?
6. Read Acts 17:16-34. Outline the main points in what Paul says to them. What was effective in how he communicated with them?
In what ways might this passage serve as a model for us today as we tell others about Jesus?
7. Human beings are worshipers. We all worship something. Put another way, we are reflecting beings and will reflect whatever we hold most dear. What does your life reflect?
8. Find a passage in one of the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) that recounts something Jesus did. How does the passage help you to know Him? Praise Jesus together in light of the passage.

CONCLUSION

God didn't want people trying to make an image of Himself because His plan was to show Himself to His people through His Son, Jesus. We aren't allowed to *make* God's image but are to *be* God's image. As we know Christ, adore Christ, and worship Christ, we bear His image to the world. As we worship Jesus rightly, we become more Christlike and reflect His image as His image-bearers most brightly.

SHARE & PRAY

- Pray in response to the Word you've studied and the things it's caused you to share with each other about.
- Take some time to thank God for what He's been doing in your lives.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, the growth in grace you want to experience, and the needs among you.

