

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of February 25 – March 2, 2024

“GOD AND OUR DEVOTION”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is one skill or talent that you have caught or learned from someone you looked up to?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Exodus 3.

1. What “dilemma” did the people of Israel face? When you read about their request for Aaron to make gods for them, what do you think was the underlying reason? How did their impatience contribute to their vulnerability and the temptation to seek alternatives to God's plan?
2. In what ways does the “worship of self” manifest in a person's actions? Can you give specific examples?
3. Consider Aaron's role in the creation of the golden calf. How would you describe his leadership? (See also his response to Moses in verses 22-24). What lessons can be drawn from his failure to lead the people in righteousness and obedience during Moses' absence?
4. Why is so God angry with idolatry? (See Exodus 20:3-6; 32:7-10) How does Moses intercede for the people from the righteous wrath of God? (See Exodus 32:11-14,30-32). What do you learn about prayer in this instance?
5. Contemplate on the severe consequences faced by those who engaged in idol worship. What is your reaction about the execution of those involved in idol worship? How does this narrative illustrate the consequences of rebellion against God's authority and instructions?

6. Reflect on the mercy and grace extended by God, even in the face of grave disobedience. How does this narrative underscore the depth of God's compassion and his desire for reconciliation with his people?

NEXT STEPS

Behind our worship problem is the problem of idolatry.

- ☐ I will not allow impatience to take away my trust in God.
- ☐ I will be aware of my tendency to self-worship.
- ☐ I will recognize the subtle forms of idolatry in my life, such as material possessions, status, or relationships.
- ☐ I will follow Moses' example of interceding for others in prayer.
- ☐ I will remove all that competes for my affection and allegiance to God.
- ☐ *Don't forget to:*
- ☐ Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for a heart that prioritizes God above all else.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

February 26	Exodus 17
February 27	Exodus 18
February 28	Exodus 19
February 29	Exodus 20
March 1	Exodus 24
March 2	Exodus 31
March 3	Exodus 32