

Sermon Discussion Questions for Small Groups and Families:

Idols, part VI: Hidden Idols | John 1-4 | Chapter 6 of "Counterfeit Gods"

1. Why are some idols obvious, and others not-so-obvious? How do we become blind to certain idols? What can help us to see what they are?
2. Keller identified two hidden religious idols: doctrine and moral performance. Pastor Bill, in his sermon, added another: Tradition. Talk about how you've seen these good things become idols within religious communities. What impact did that have on the church? How about on the wider community?
3. Keller suggests that one of the biggest reasons that our culture has "abandoned God as its Hope" is because of the conflict and self-righteousness that these religious idols create in churches. What do you think about that? Do you know anyone who was walked away from the faith, or been turned off forever, because of the arrogance, exclusivity or toxicity they encountered in Christian communities?
4. Why do you think God chose Jonah to preach to the Ninevites?
5. Why can't pride and grace co-exist? What are some of the things God has used in your life destroy your pride?
6. Why was Jonah angry at God when Ninevah repented? What did this reveal about his heart?
7. What makes you particularly angry, anxious and afraid? What does that reveal about your heart?
8. What makes God angry? What stirs His deepest emotions? What does that reveal about His heart?
9. Is your heart in sync with God's heart? What will it take for yours to beat with His?
10. If you heard Pastor Bill's sermon on Jonah—what did he say that challenged you, and why? What bothered or offended you, and why? What convicted you, and why?
11. Talk about one way you and your church might need to be willing to change, for the sake of the younger generation, and those who do not yet know Christ.

Spend some time in prayer for one another.

*Jesus, lover of my soul
All consuming fire is in Your gaze
Jesus, I want you to know
I will follow you all my days
For no one else in history is like you
And history itself belongs to you
Alpha and Omega, You have loved me
And I will share eternity with You*

*It's all about You, Jesus
And all this is for You
For Your glory and your fame
It's not about me
As if You should do things my way
You alone are God
And I surrender to your ways.*

--Kari Jobe