

Sermon Discussion Questions for Small Groups and Families:

Idols, part VII: The End of Idols | Gen. 32:22-31, Matt. 12:43-45 | Ch. 7 & Epilogue of "Counterfeit Gods"

1. Read Jesus' parable of the returning demon in Matthew 12:43-45. What does this have to do with putting an end to our idols?
2. Do you agree that "the human heart is indeed a factory that mass-produces idols" (155)? Why or why not?
3. On page 156, Keller says, "The Lord cannot be added to a life as one more hedge against failure. He is not one more resource to use to help us achieve our agenda. He is a whole new agenda." Talk about some of the ways you try to enlist God to help you achieve your agenda. Why is it so hard to let Him set the agenda for our lives?
4. Jacob finally felt the weight of God's glory when he was alone in the wilderness. Talk about a wilderness experience in your life when you met God alone? How did God reveal Himself to you? What impact did that have on your relationship with Him?
5. Talk about a time when you wrestled with God. It could have been over an idol, over a disagreement, the agony of unanswered prayer. How did that experience of wrestling impact your relationship with Him?
6. Jacob left the scene "permanently lamed, yet permanently fulfilled. He had been humbled yet emboldened at the same time" (161). Does this statement ring true? If so, how so? Draw on your own personal experience as you talk about this.
7. Read the second half of page 164, beginning with the statement, "As with Jacob..." Are you currently looking for blessing in any of the wrong places? What would it take for you to seek that blessing from God? What fear, insecurity, addiction or affection is holding you back? How can you encourage one another to seek the fulfillment of your deepest needs from God alone?
8. Talk about a time during the reading of this book, or the preaching of this series, where you felt angry, defensive or threatened. What is God revealing to you through those emotions?
9. When God exposes or challenges an idol of yours, do you tend to say, "let me go, God!" or "I refuse to let go of you until you bless me!" Why?
10. What difference does it make that God meets us in weakness? Why do you think Jesus emptied Himself of power and glory when coming to the earth?

Spend some time in prayer for one another

Two suggestions for a follow up study for your small group or family:

- The Hole in Our Gospel (by Richard Stearns)
- The Prodigal God (by Tim Keller)

For more information, visit: www.pscrc.org/asf

Knowing You

By: -Graham Kendrick (based on Philippians 3:7-11)

*All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres and wars to own
All I once thought gain I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now compared to this*

*Now my heart's desire is to know You more
To be found in You and know as Yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All surpassing gift of righteousness*

*Oh to know the power of Your risen life
And to know You in Your sufferings
To become like You in Your death, my Lord
So with You to live and never die*

**Knowing You, Jesus, knowing You
There is no greater thing
You're my all, You're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love You Lord**