

Aim: A look at the 1st Commandment

Today we are looking at the first Commandment which says ""You must not have any other God but Me." Exodus 20:3_{NLT}

Now, if we are going to understand it, we need to know what a god is, and a simple explanation of what a god is, is someone or something that people worship. People think that their gods are very important; they spend time with their gods, and give things to their gods. They do the things that they think their god wants them to do.

Can you think of some things that people have worshiped in old times? (The sun, animals, volcanos, rivers, statues)
Have you seen movies or read books where people worshiped the sun, something in nature, animals or idols?

A lot of the things that people have worshiped probably seem silly to us, but the people who worshiped them often had a good reason for thinking they were gods.

For example, a lot of people used to worship the sun, because the sun makes the darkness go away and it brings warmth and light to the earth; without the sun, plants would die.

Can you guess why people might worship other things? People often worshiped things they thought were powerful, mysterious, unusual or valuable.

People who worship nature, animals or idols have forgotten that it was God who made all those things in the first place.

Why should we worship God?

- Genesis 1:1 (God is our Creator; He made everything)
- Genesis 2:7 (God gives life)
- Colossians 1:17 (God sustains life, He keeps it going)
- Psalm 147:5 (God is powerful)
- John 3:16 (God loves us)
- Matthew 1:21 (God saves us)
- John 14:1-3 (God is making a new and perfect home for us in heaven)

Did you notice with when we've been learning about the Israelites this year, that God would do something wonderful for them and then they would promise to worship and obey God, but then they would forget and start sinning, and then God would do something else for them and they would follow Him again for a while, until they forgot again?

The same thing can happen to us. We tell God that we are going to follow Him, we come to church and read our Bibles, but after a while we forget to read our Bibles, we forget about praying to God every day and we get busy doing other things. We're probably not worshipping idols, or the sun, but other things can become more and more important to us until they become just like a god.

What are some things that people spend a lot of time doing? (TV, Facebook, sports etc)

What are some things that people spend a lot of money on? (Possessions, sports, drugs etc)

What are some things that people change the way they act for? (Music groups, TV shows, drugs etc)

All of these things can become gods; even things that are good can become gods.

The Bing Dictionary says a God is "something that dominates: something that is so important that it takes over somebody's life"

What is the most important thing in your life?

Do you spend a lot of time with it or thinking about it?

Do you spend a lot of money on it?

Could this thing become a god?

What will you do to make sure it doesn't? (Optional: Write out a plan)