

# The Idol Makers

## Sabbath

Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?

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Have you thought about what you might do when you finish school? Will you go to Uni or Tafe, or learn a trade?

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Have you ever thought about where you might live? Or what sort of house you would buy?

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Have you ever thought about what type of car you want?

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When you grow up are there things you want to be different from now?

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Are there things you look forward to doing once you grow up and leave home?

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Back when my brother and I were children, my Dad would receive his pay each week as an envelope of money. The first thing Dad and Mum would do, was to set aside one tenth as tithe and another tenth as offering. Then \$50 or so would be set aside for food and \$10 for fuel for the car with the remainder going into the bank as savings for big expenses, like the car insurance.

But one week several big expenses, including some unexpected ones had come up. Setting aside the tenth for tithe and tenth for offering as usual, they then set aside what was needed for the remainder of the unexpected bills. But that left only \$20 for food and fuel! Together they prayed, claiming the Bible promise \_\_\_\_\_...

The next day was shopping day and before leaving the car Mum prayed again. Her first stop was the post office where she had to send two long distance birthday cards – they had to be sent that day so they would arrive in time. That left nothing in her purse except one lone \$10 note.

Then she went to the grocery store and chose the food that we would need for the week. When the teller totalled it up it came to \$50 as usual. With another prayer, Mum opened her purse – and there she found that the \$10 note had changed into a \$50 note – God had performed a miracle!

Happily she paid for the groceries and putting the receipt in her now empty purse, took them home.

God had supplied our needs – but it gets even better; after she put the groceries away she opened her purse to take out the receipt and found a new \$10 note in it! – Just the right amount that was needed to get the fuel we would need in the car.

## Sunday

Paul was still preaching in Ephesus when trouble started.

It began with Demetrius, an important silversmith who made shrines of the Greek goddess Artemis. One day he called a meeting of all the silversmiths and their workers.



He said, "Gentlemen, you know that our wealth comes from our business; but Paul teaches that handmade idols aren't really gods at all and our sales have dropped. And it is not only our loss; the temple of the great goddess Artemis will lose its influence and Artemis, our magnificent goddess who is worshiped throughout the province of Asia and all around the world, will be robbed of her great position!"

When they heard this they were angry, and began shouting, "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians! Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!"

Their cry was so loud that soon the whole city was filled with confusion; everyone rushed to the amphitheatre, dragging along two of Paul's friends from Macedonia. Paul wanted to go too, but the believers wouldn't let him.

It was more than two hours before the mayor was able to quiet the crowd. "People of Ephesus," he said. "Everyone knows that Ephesus has the temple of the great Artemis; no one can deny it, so calm down. Why have you have brought these men here? They have not stolen anything from the temple; they have not even spoken against our goddess. If the silversmiths have a case against them, let them take it to the courts; let them make formal charges.

We are in danger of being charged with rioting by the Roman government, since there is no cause for all this commotion!"

Then he dismissed them, and they left.

When the uproar was over, Paul sent for the believers and encouraged them. Then he said good-bye and left for Macedonia.

## Friday

Even today there are idols. Some are statues that you can see, but anything that is more important to you than God, is an idol, including money. Here are some other things that can become idols.

Sporting hero, TV programs, movie stars, cartoons, animals, friends, clothes, people, places, sports, books, drugs, cars, toys, excitement, alcohol, you!

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I C A R T O O N S M P O R T I  
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N Y F R I E N D S T H T O Y S  
A L C O H O L I P N G A T H A  
C A R S T S E E O M D R U G S  
S M O R E I M P R O R S T A N  
T T H A N G O D T I D O L S A  
R E A N B O O K S Y T H I N G

## Thursday

Read the story of the rich young man in Matthew 19:16-23:

Someone came to Jesus with this question: "Teacher what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"

"Why ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, **keep the commandments...**"

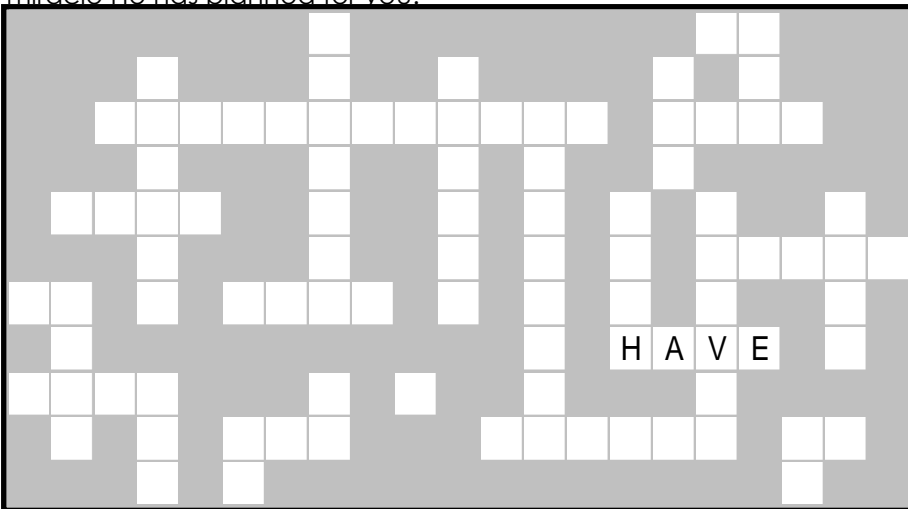
"I've obeyed all these commandments," the young man replied. "What else must I do?"

Jesus told him, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and **you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.**"

But when the young man heard this, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, **it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven...**"<sup>NLT</sup>

Jesus is not telling us all to get rid of our money, but for this young man, like many others, money had become more important to Him than God – it had become an idol! 2 Corinthians 12:9 says "My power works best in weakness." – The times when we are weakest, poorest, sickest and saddest can also be times where we see God's power the strongest and feel his presence the closest. So instead of worrying about everything, tell God and then wait to see what miracle He has planned for you.



## Monday

Many people worry about their income, whether they will have enough money for the things they want or need, or whether they will have enough when they retire. Learning to manage your money wisely is a skill that we should all aim for, but even the best knowledge and the wisest financial choices don't guarantee financial success. Do you remember the parable of the barns from Luke 12:13-21?

What did he have too much of? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he do with it? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened next? \_\_\_\_\_

There is a saying that there are no guarantees in life, but as Christians we have an advantage over other people.

Read Matthew 6:25, what should we not worry about? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God has promised to supply our needs, but what do we have to do? Keep reading to verse 33.

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When we seek to put God first in our lives, He will look after us.

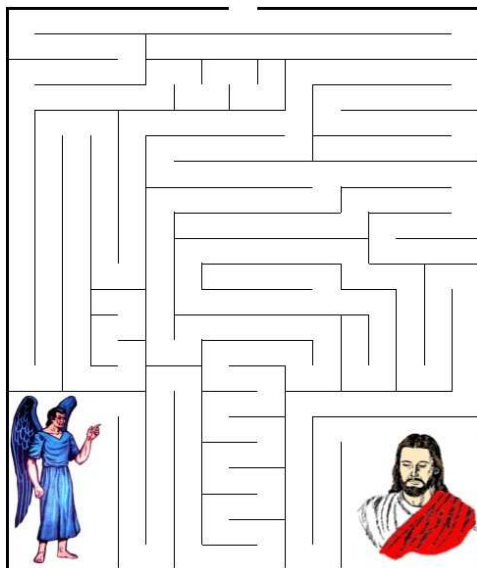
There is one more thing we have to do though. God has said that since He provides for us, we should give one tenth of what He gives us to support His preachers and missionaries. Although Paul himself worked for a living, he mentions this principal in 1 Corinthians 9:14<sup>NLT</sup> "The Lord ordered that those who preach the Good News should be supported by those who benefit from it."

## Tuesday

Who were the people or Ephesus really listening to?

Satan had stirred up the silversmiths to cause a riot; he was hoping to kill Paul and his friends, and stop their missionary work.

Why were less people buying idols?



Because Paul was teaching them about Jesus and God, and God's 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment says in Exodus 20:4<sup>NLT</sup>:

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## Wednesday

Use the missing words to fill the crossword:

"Every\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (5a) we have has come from \_ \_ \_ (2d), and we give you only what you first gave us!" 1 Chronicles 29:14<sup>NLT</sup> -This is from David's pray of praise for the gifts brought for the building of the temple.

"Bring all the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_s (1d) into the storehouse so there will be enough f \_ \_ \_ (4a) in my Temple. If you do," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies, 'I will open the windows of \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (9d) for you. I will pour out a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (10a) so great you won't have enough room to take it in!" Malachi 3:10<sup>NLT</sup>

"So don't \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (14a) about these things, saying, 'What will we \_ \_ \_ (13a)? What will we \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (15a)? What will we \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (11d)?' Seek the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (7d) of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will \_ \_ \_ \_ (12a) you everything you need. Matthew 6:31, 33<sup>NLT</sup>

"And what do you benefit if you \_ \_ \_ \_ (3a) the whole \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ (8a) but lose your own \_ \_ \_ \_ (6d)?" Mark 8:36<sup>NLT</sup>

