

Idols Series | Week 1: VISION [Proverbs 20:5]

Series Overview: For this series, we are striving to go deep into the students' hearts. We are going after their hearts because the Lord wants their hearts! I believe this will be a revealing series as we are going to ask the students to look deeply into their lives and see where the idols of power, control, approval, and comfort are prevalent. Even for us leaders, it will be a testing series! These idols pull us away from loving Jesus fully, and we want the Holy Spirit to reveal to our students where they are feeding into these idols and how they can love Jesus even more so!

Weekly Overview: For this week, we are vision casting and setting up some mindsets we all need to have as we head into this series. From Proverbs 20:5, we want to be people of understanding who are capable of drawing out what is deep within our hearts! This series will only work if we are prepared to look introspectively and realize where we have idols and need the Lord to change us.

Intro:

- Hello and Welcome back to _____ (insert student ministry name)
- I am _____ (insert your name), and I am a pastor at _____ (insert church name), and I shepherd this ministry

Student Ministry Vision:

- Here at _____ (insert student ministry name), we want you to learn, live and give the Gospel
- In short, we want you to love Jesus

Series Vision:

- Prayer time
 - Let's get to the deeper root of sin
- Helpful to ask yourself tough questions to see what the real issue is and how to fight against it!

- Weeds
 - Just pull the top off- looks nice for a couple of days but the weed(s) come back
 - Get the whole root out to fully kill the weed(s)
 - To replace idols so they do not grow back, we need to rejoice in the things Jesus provides to replace them
- Loving idols instead of loving Jesus
 - Serving these idols impedes us from fully loving Jesus
- With us pushing you to love Jesus, let us dive deep and see where these idols affect us
- This series will be 5 weeks
 - This first week will be vision and setting up the series
 - Talking through a mindset we each need to have
 - We will then move to talk about 4 main deep idols

Vision Week:

- This week will be more introductory
- Setting up our minds and hearts for the next 4 weeks
- Before we get too far, let us talk about what we think idols are

Intro DQ: **What are idols? Where have you heard of idols?**

- Remember these few ideas with our first question
 - Try and not give affirmation right away so students continue to think rather than give what they think is the right “answer” and just check out.
 - This question is posed to get them to think
 - Encourage them to be open and share- This is a safe group
 - Leaders, this is on you to promote a culture that is protected and there is trust between students!
- Possible answers: **These are ok answers! We want them to get these out, and to reveal what they actually think about what idols are. Then we will be talking about the deeper idols**

- Sports idols- Michael Jordan, Messi, etc.
- Famous idols- celebrities, etc.
- Statues

Definition of Idol: Anything more fundamental than God to your happiness, meaning in life, or identity

- We have surface idols- money, phone, image, popularity
- Usually, think of serving other things
 - This series is how idols serve yourself

Reading: Proverbs 20:5

Teaching:

- I am really excited for this series
- I have been wanting to do this series for a while
 - As we have talked about loving Jesus, this idea of loving/worshipping idols comes through
 - Loving idols instead of loving Jesus
- Something I am going to ask of us in this series
 - Asking you all to think introspectively
 - We get this idea from Proverbs 20:5
 - A person of understanding can draw out what is deep within their heart and understand its true intentions
 - a discerning person can bring to light the deepest intentions¹
 - Some of you may be experiencing this for the first time
 - We will ask questions to help you think deeper!
 - I do this all the time!
 - I pray and talk to the Lord about the intentions of my heart, and I ask myself tough questions about what I am processing through

¹ Derek Kidner, [*Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*](#), vol. 17, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1964), 129.

- To look introspectively: to look inwardly and judge the intentions of your heart
 - The Word of God does this!
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
 - This is why we need to know our Bible!
- To look introspectively,
 - We need to understand God's heart
 - Reading His Word
 - Praying to Him- being honest with Him/having a conversation
 - We need others who are wise in the Lord to speak into our lives
 - Encourage us with Scripture
 - Pray with and for us
- This may be a tough series because we are going to really dig into the deeper parts of our hearts and see what is at the root
 - You may see more of one idol in this series
 - You may see smaller portions of another
- It will be easy to be discouraged in this series
 - "I'm the worst, I have all of these idols in my life"
 - Life-giving that God, in His kindness, would allow us to know our sins and that He still loves and cares for us
- Why we are doing this series:
 - Eph 4:13-16
 - V. 15- Speaking truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head
 - V. 16- ... makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love
 - We are seeking how to love Jesus more through this series- as our theme for the year

Final DQ

- What excites you about this series? What makes you nervous about this series?
 - Let the students share some thoughts, and take notes to keep in mind throughout the series
 - Provide encouragement, if necessary, for why we are doing this series!

Prayer

- Pray about what was said in relation to the answers to the questions above.
- Prayer that we can look inwardly, and that God would show us where we love idols instead of Him