

Idols Series | Week 2: POWER [Matthew 20:28 & Daniel 4]

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: This week we are focusing on the 'Power' idol. In short, the power idol seeks to gain influence over people in any way they can. They will use people and opportunities for them to succeed. The big shift in the power idol is to go from taking advantage of people to serving them. Instead of how I can gain influence and status by using this person to how can I serve others for them to see Christ in me, and how He is the greatest servant.

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
- 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's dive deep and see where these idols affect us
 - Prov 20:5
 - Helpful to ask yourself hard questions to see what the real issue is and how to fight against it!

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

- Not so much wanting bad things, as it is turning good things into ultimate things.

Intro DQ: **What are situations or things that you think are embarrassing?**

- 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 protected culture and trust between members!
- Note: **This question is geared to get the students thinking about embarrassing/humiliating things, which coincides with the power idol**

Teaching:

- Problem: I am above. Life only has meaning/I only have satisfaction when I have **success** and **influence** over people/position
- Surface idols: You may have the power idol...

- Money- My family makes more money than you so I am more important than you
- Popularity- I have more followers so what I say and do means more than you
- Grades- I have better grades so I am more important than you
- Sports- I am a better player than you
- *Problem emotion: Anger*
 - Anger is the result of **false hope**, that someone or something will give me the **power** and **significance**
- *People around me feel: Used-* People are steppingstones to my success
- *Greatest Nightmare: Humiliation-* Loss of credibility/respect/authority
- *I am willing to give up: Getting help from others-* If I want it done right, then I will take things on and do it myself

Passage: Daniel 2-4, Matthew 20:28

- I will talk about the story of Nebuchadnezzar about how he created a statue of himself and ordered people to worship him
- Then how God humiliated him- Daniel 4:32-33
- God showed Nebuchadnezzar his power idol and humbled him
 - Proverbs 16:18- Pride goes before destruction

Prescription: Serving

- To replace idols so they do not grow back, we need to rejoice in the things Jesus provides to replace them
- Power- Sitting under God- the ultimate source of power
 - God first, Me second
 - Matthew 20:28- Jesus came to serve, and we should follow His example
 - **2 Cor 12:9- God's power is made perfect in our weakness**

Practical Steps:

- **What is a way you can serve God by serving others?**

- In what you have learned about the power idol, is there one or multiple aspects that you see in your life? How so?
 - Here are a couple of questions to go deeper with the power idol
 - Maybe students connected with multiple aspects of the power idol
 - Maybe some students connected with only one aspect of the power idol
 - Either is ok!
 - The main idea to help pull away from the power idol is God is unlimited in His power (Psalm 147:5, Jeremiah 32:17)
 - For ourselves to gain power on this earth is fleeting
 - We need to come under God to get the root of the power idol
 - *Acknowledging who He is*
 - God, Creator (Gen 1, Colossians 1, Psalm 8), King (Hebrews 1), and Lord (Psalm 8)
 - *Seek to serve others and not use them for our own advantage*

Prayer:

- When you have gotten to a good place with this conversation, go ahead and take time to pray with your group
 - Is there a certain person or situation you take advantage of for your own glory? How can you seek to serve in this situation?
 - Maybe they can just pray this week only in praise of who God is to acknowledge who He is
 - Have them read and pray through Psalm 8