

Idols Series | Week 3: COMFORT [Philippians 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 Comfort idol**. In short, the comfort idol or pleasure idol is about placing our feelings and desire for pleasure on the throne of our lives rather than the God that designed comfort and gives it freely. Once again, we worship the creation rather than the Creator. Romans 1:25

Welcome:

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:

- Weeds
 - Just pull the top off- looks nice for a couple of days but the weed(s) comes 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

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

My Comfort food is Tuna Fish Casserole! It is fishy and cheesy! And something that always makes me happy!

Intro DQ: **What is your comfort food? What do you eat to feel better?**

- **Note:** **This question is** supposed to hit a little differently, because most comfort foods are not really the most delicious, they are something that your mom or dad makes that reminds you of a simpler time or makes you feel at home, **if someone comes up with a weird food, ask them why they like it so much!** IT WILL PROBABLY LEAD YOU TO TALK ABOUT WHAT TRULY COMFORTS THEM.

Teaching:

I am going to talk about the Comfort Idol.

- *Problem emotion:* **Boredom**
 - I am willing to do the same thing, while seeking out comfort because doing something different may make me **uncomfortable** and **be in need**.
- *People around me feel:* **Neglected and Isolated** *Why? Because, If I don't feel comfortable talking to you I won't, if I want to be alone, I will, and I will seek out my self-preservation over others. Comfort doesn't call me to care for others only God does that!*

Pick a side:

I will have everyone stand up and move to the middle of the room. If they have ever felt neglected or isolated or rejected by or from another person. I will have them move to the east wall. (We see how many people have been affected by the comfort idol.)

Then I will have them come to the middle and ask them "How many of you have entered into an awkward situation or boring situation so instead of staying intentional in that moment, you picked up your phone and scrolled." If they have, they will move to the west wall. (This will represent how many of us could struggle with a comfort Idol. They

chose to be safe and retreat out of a weird situation rather than endure something uncomfortable.)

- *Greatest Fear:* **Being overwhelmed and stressed** Comfort promises us that feeling safe, distracted, and untroubled will lead to ultimate joy. **How many of you have gone on snapchat or Instagram when you should be working on homework?** But truthfully it leads instead to boredom or more anxiety. That is why much of church life, as we know it, is boring! Because it relies on the past and feeling of comfort. Instead of being pushed and examining our lives for His glory! Comfort cannot produce Faith, Steadfastness, and Completeness. Only Trials and hardship produce that! (James 1:2-4)
- *I am willing to give up:* **Productivity** I am willing to give up God given tasks to feel better and have fulfilled pleasures.

DQ: When is a time that you grew the most in your life? (Physically, spiritually, emotionally.) How did you feel in those moments? (Tired, Sore, Uncomfortable, stressed, hurt, sad)

Passage: Ezekiel 14:3, 2 Cor. 1:3-11

- Comfort is not bad! Some of the best things in life tend to become Idols. **(AN IDOL DOES NOT HAVE TO BE AN EVIL THING IT WAS MERELY SOMETHING WE MADE THE ULTIMATE THING.)**
- Christ is the supplier of all comfort! The reason you can be comforted at all is because of God. In fact, the place that God's presence isn't, is a place where there is no comfort! Hell is absent of comfort. When you feel good, it is because of Jesus. We should never serve the thing, we ought to serve God. And God calls us to be uncomfortable. (Matt. 16:24-28)

Prescription: Christ!

We are called to love Christ so much more!

Col. 3:1-5

Pulling this idol off the throne in our hearts is a tricky task because many times even as we think about serving God, we don't want to be punished so we are serving the comfort idol without realizing it! WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS REPENT AND REJOICE. REJOICE BECAUSE WE SERVE THE BIGGER, BETTER, AND ONLY TRUE GOD. WHO WILL GRANT US COMFORT AS WE DO GOOD WORKS AND STRIVE AFTER HIM.

Practical Steps:

- What is something you use as a crutch? Instead of Worshipping and focusing on Jesus? How can we get rid of those things?
- Do you believe Comfort is an Idol in your life?
- What is something uncomfortable in your life as a Christ follower that you feel like God wants you to do? (Judges 6:25-32)
- What do you need comfort in that Only God can supply?

Prayer:

- When you have gotten to a good place with this conversation, go ahead and take time to pray with your group
 - Is there something we need to lay down that is an Idol in your life?