

# Idols Series | Week 4: APPROVAL

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!

Week Overview: For this week we are focusing on **the Approval idol**. There are a few different ways for us to think about this idol, but we are viewing it from an identity perspective. We are trying to understand how God's love and identity for us allow us to see ourselves approved because of what He has done for us!

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:

- Weed
  - Just pull the top off- looks nice for a couple of days but the weed comes back
  - Get the whole root out to fully kill the weed
  - 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
  - These root idols are seeking to serve ourselves

Main Idea: Our Approval comes from the Lord

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

Intro DQ: **What is something you cannot get enough of in your life?**

- **Note:** This question goes along with what I will say in the tendencies about how the approval idol may lead people to constantly get approval from others - **People cannot get enough approval from others in their life**
- This question doesn't have to be serious!
  - You can share silly things like mint Kaleidos from Kroger!
    - I cannot get enough of those in my life!
  - It can be serious, but also can be something fun to get to know each other more
- Don't be afraid to re-vision cast for your group about discussion!
  - Be open and honest
  - Listening and being respectful to others
  - don't be afraid to share hard things or ask tough questions, etc.!

Activity/Idol Tendencies:

- Seek: Approval from others
  - Approval from people is never enough
- Greatest fear: Rejection/not being "good enough"
- People feel: Smothered by the constant need for approval
- Problem emotion: Cowardice
- Activity/Illustration:
  - Eating sugar-
  - Approval from people is never enough

DQ of Idol Tendencies: **Are there good and poor aspects to getting approval from others?**

- **The idea with this question is to get the students to think about how approval from others can be poor but also can be good!**

- Poor
  - If we only get our approval from others, we are not reinforced by the Word of God or the Holy Spirit
  - Not listening to what God is calling us to
  - Going along with the crowd rather than following God/loving Jesus
- Good
  - Spiritual leaders can help reinforce what God is calling students to
  - Spiritual leaders can affirm students loving Jesus

#### Teaching:

- How I interact with the approval idol
  - Seeking the approval of others to make sure I am doing a good job
  - People in authority over me- parents, coaches, teachers, elders, etc.
- With the approval idol, we seem to feel 'never good enough'
  - Never sufficient
- Our approval is from the Lord- main idea
  - Not to ignore spiritual leaders- leading from the Word of God
  - Eph 5- submit to each other out of reverence for Christ
- Am I serving the Lord?
  - Trust in what God commands us rather than in what other people say

#### Scripture:

- 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
  - Sufficiency is from God
  - Christ has made us sufficient- He has made us good enough because of what He has done for us
    - Gospel
    - "He gave us grace so we could be something"

Final DQ/Encouragements: **Look through these passages. How do they reinforce the idea that those who are believers in Christ are sufficient or approved in God's eyes?**

- Philippians 1:6
  - God will bring the completion of His work in us

- 2 Cor 12:9-
  - God's grace is sufficient for us
- Colossians 1:9-14
  - V. 12- Qualified you
- Matthew 7:24-27
  - Building our house on the solid foundation of God's approval rather than the approval of others
- Galatians 1:10
  - Seeking the approval of God and not man
- Psalm 118:6-9
  - Better to trust in the Lord than in man
- 1 Thessalonians 2:4
  - Speak not to please man, but to please God

Prayer:

- Are there people in your life that you are constantly seeking approval from? Why do you think that is? What are you looking for?
- Why do you do the activities that you do? Do you do it for praise and affirmation? How does what you think coincide with our main verse (2 Cor 3:4-6) from this evening?