



Calvary
Baptist Church

For the week of:
01/20/25

Family Worship Guide

New City Catechism

Question 17: What is idolatry?

Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator for our hope and happiness, significance and security.

WELCOME

Why should we do a family devotional?

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-8

As long as there have been a “people of God,” the command given to them has always been that they would be instructing their children in the way of the Lord. It is expected that parents will be teaching their children.

But teaching children is more than simply giving rules. It involves showing them HOW to obey the Lord by doing it yourself! These family devotionals are meant to equip you as an individual to grow in your understanding of the Lord and His Word, as well as providing parents with the resources and opportunities to demonstrate for their children what it looks like to pursue God.

How to use this devotional:

This is simply a resource for you to use however works best for your family! Each day there is a selected Scripture reading, devotional, discussion questions, a prayer prompt, and a song to sing together. You may consider splitting parts and having one family member read the Scripture while another reads the devotional and another leads the prayer. Feel free to read additional Scripture as you call to mind passages that relate to what was read. Sing more sing with your family than the one provided if you feel led to. Use this guide in whatever way helps you and your family draw nearer to the Lord together.

MONDAY

Read Psalm 115

Discuss

When someone mentions idolatry, it usually sounds like something distant. I imagine Buddhas carved into the sides of mountains, or Hindu temples to one of their millions of gods, or maybe ancient statues in a museum. While these statues are certainly idols, the truth is that the sin lies deeper than having a statue.

One aspect of idolatry is placing one's trust/hope in that thing. Idolatry is when we trust in something other than God to give us hope for the future. This could look like praying to a statue to bring rain, or an ancient Egyptian praying for Anubis to guide a loved one through the underworld, or... it may look like someone trusting in their good grades or hard work to provide a good future for them.

Now, I am not saying to stop working hard. Hard work is a good thing! But often we can trust in our own abilities to give us the future we want.

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.” Proverbs 19:21

If we want hope in the future, then there is only One who can give us true hope. Trust in Him.

Discussion Questions

- What do you trust in to give you future hope?
- How is this idolatry?
- In what way does God give us a better hope?

Sing

All Glory be to Christ
Kings Kaleidoscope

Pray

Thank God for giving us eternal hope in Christ that doesn't fade like idols.

ALL GLORY BE TO CHRIST

Verse 1:

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive
To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life
A mist that vanishes at dawn

Chorus:

All glory be to Christ
All glory be to Christ our King
All glory be to Christ
His rule and reign will ever sing
All glory be to Christ

Verse 2:

His will be done
His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love
Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet

(Chorus)

Verse 3:

When on the day the great I Am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new
Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be

(Chorus)



TUESDAY

Read Psalm 1 and Psalm 37:4

Discuss

There is always a question of where the people find their delight. Are they delighting in God Himself, or are they delighting in some created thing?

People always have a motivation. They do the things that they think will bring them the greatest happiness. If you steal a cookie, it is because you think that the sweet treat will be better than any punishment you may get. If you tell a lie, it shows that you think covering up something will give you greater happiness than telling the truth.

Most sins are rooted in idolatry. We believe that something else will give us greater happiness, comfort, delight, than God Himself. Because we think something else will give us greater happiness, we will engage in all kinds of sin to get it.

One author said, “It is an idol if you are 1) willing to sin to get it, 2) willing to sin to keep it, , or 3) willing to sin if you do not get/keep it.” These three tests show us that we love/delight in something more than God.

Delight yourself in the Lord, then He will be the desires of your hearts and give Himself to you in abundance.

Discussion Questions

- Read the list of what makes an idol. Is there anything in your life that fits that description?
- In what ways do you delight in gifts rather than the gift giver?
- How can you find greater delight in the Lord?

Sing

Approach my Soul the Mercy Seat
John Newton

Pray

Confess idols in your heart to God.

APPROACH MY SOUL THE MERCY SEAT

Verse 1:

Approach, my soul, the mercy seat
Where Jesus answers pray'r;
There humbly fall before his feet,
For none can perish there.

Verse 2:

My only plea, your promise true;
With this I venture nigh;
You beckon burdened souls to you,
And such, O Lord, am I.

Verse 3:

Bowed down beneath a load of sin,
By Satan sorely pressed;
By war without and fears within,
I come to you for rest.

Verse 4:

Thus be my shield and hiding place!
That sheltered near your side,
I may my fierce accuser face,
And say the Lamb has died.

Verse 5:

Oh, wondrous love! To bleed and die,
To bear the cross and shame,
That guilty sinners, such as I,
Might plead your gracious name.

Verse 6:

"Poor tempest-ravaged soul, be still,
My promised grace receive,"
'Tis Jesus speaks—I must, I will,
I can, I do believe.



WEDNESDAY

Read Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-7

Discuss

In many movies and shows and stories, we hear some version of the saying, “You are more than enough.” The main character is on a journey to find that they are stronger and more powerful than they imagined.

Most people struggle to understand how or why they are significant. They ask the question, “Am I enough?” The answer is... no.

You are not enough on your own. You were never made to be enough on your own. People only have significance, because God says that we do. God chose to make you and me and all other people in His image. That is what makes us significant.

When we look to anyone or anything other than God to give us significance, we have made that an idol. If I find my significance in my job or my school or my family or my service or anything other than what God has says about me, then that thing has become an idol.

Nothing can give me the significance that God does. I cannot find it in anything or anyone else. Whatever they say, isn’t enough and will eventual fade away. But what God says will never fade. He provides me with a significance that lasts as His chosen heir.

Discussion Questions

- Do you try to find significance in things other than God? How?
- Why are these things bad sources of significance?
- How does God give us greater significance? (Hint: consider reading Romans 8:12-17).

Sing

And Can It Be
Charles Wesley

Pray

Thank God for giving you a greater significance in Him.

AND CAN IT BE

Verse 1:

And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

Refrain:

Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

Verse 2:

'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.

[Refrain]

Verse 3:

He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me.

[Refrain]

Verse 4:

Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

[Refrain]

Verse 5:

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

[Refrain]



THURSDAY

Read Romans 8:31-39

Discuss

Take a moment to read through those verses again, and slowly. Notice that Paul is not saying those things WON'T come. Tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, sword, these are things that we might experience! The beautiful truth though is that the love of God that has been given to us is SO great that none of these things and nothing else could ever separate us from God.

God is the only true source of security. No matter what comes, He is the only one who will never leave nor forsake us.

Idolatry can show up when we look to other things to give us that security. Money cannot protect you. The richest men in the world are not immune to the market crashing. October 24th, 1929, is a day known as Black Thursday. On this day the US stock market crashed. Many thousands of people who had invested all their assets into the market suddenly found themselves with nothing. What they had trusted to give them protection from hardship, had suddenly vanished.

There is nothing in this world that can give us the security we need. Everything will fade away. Our own abilities, strength, hard work, and money will someday fail us. We need God. Trust in Him.

Discussion Questions

- Where do you look for your security?
- Can anything in this world offer true security?
- How is Christ a better security?

Sing

*Christ the Sure and Steady
Anchor*

Matt Boswell and Matt Papa

Pray

Thank God for being our true
and steady anchor.

CHRIST THE SURE AND STEADY ANCHOR

Verse 1:

Christ the sure and steady anchor in the fury of the storm
When the winds of doubt blow through me and my sails have all been torn
In the suffering, in the sorrow when my sinking hopes are few
I will hold fast to the anchor it shall never be removed

Verse 2:

Christ the sure and steady anchor while the tempest rages on
when temptation claims the battle and it seems the night has won
deeper still then goes the anchor though I justly stand accused
I will hold fast to the anchor it shall never be removed

Verse 3:

Christ the sure and steady anchor through the floods of unbelief
Hopeless, somehow, o my soul now lift your eyes to calvary
This my ballast of assurance see His love forever proved
I will hold fast to the anchor it shall never be removed

Verse 4:

Christ the sure and steady anchor as we face the wave of death
When these trials give way to glory and we draw our final breath
We will cross that great horizon



FRIDAY

Read Psalm 46

Discuss

The last several days we have talked about the different forms of idolatry. Looking to anything other than God for our hope, happiness, significance, and security. In truth, idolatry is looking to anything other than God for that which only God can truly provide.

“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” Psalm 37:4

This verse is often used wrong. People think that this means that if I love God, He will give me a good life. What it really means is that when we find our greatest delight, our greatest satisfaction, our greatest pleasure in the Lord, then He will give us what we desire. When the Lord is that consuming in our heart, the thing we desire is the Lord Himself.

Romans 1:24 and 28 show us that God often gives people what they want. If you want sin, He will let you go after it. The reality is that when you get those sinful desires, you find they are utterly empty.

When we delight in God, He gives us the only and highest satisfaction: Himself.

Discussion Questions

- What does it look like for God to be our greatest delight?
- When you sin, do you usually feel satisfied, or empty? Why do you think?

Sing

Thy Works Not Mine
Horatius Bonar

Pray

Thank God for being the greatest gift we could ever receive.

THY WORKS NOT MINE

Verse 1:

Thy works, not mine, O Christ
Speak gladness to this heart
They tell me all is done
They bid my fear depart

Verse 2:

Thy pains, not mine, O Christ
Upon the shameful tree
Have paid the law's full price
And purchased peace for me

Refrain:

To whom save Thee
Who can alone
For sin atone
Lord shall I flee

Verse 3:

Thy cross, not mine, O Christ
Has borne the awful load
Of sins that none in heaven
Or earth could bear but God

(Refrain)

Verse 4:

Thy righteousness, O Christ
Alone can cover me
No righteousness avails
Save that which is of Thee

(Refrain)

