



God's Directions for Life: You Shall Not Make Any Idols

Opening Prayer:

Dear God, help us to understand what it means to put you first in our hearts. Show us what we need to take out of our lives so that we can put more of you in. Amen.

Introduction:

Today we're talking about the second commandment. Does anybody know what it is? (Exodus 20:4)

Probably the best known example is the idol the Israelites made in the desert. Let's read about that. Moses has gone up Mount Sinai to receive the 10 commandments. This is what happens while he is gone for 40 days and nights. Read Exodus 32:1-4.

Probably none of us have statues like the Israelites made. But we can sometimes make something into an idol. The question to ask ourselves is, "Who or what gets most of my attention?" These things and people usually aren't bad, but they shouldn't be where we spend most of our time.

Activity: No Room for God

You will need a plate, a clear cup, rocks, and water. Fill the cup about 2/3's full.

Tell the kids that the cup represents our hearts. The water is God. Kids can take turns naming why God deserves their love.

Our hearts are full of the goodness of God, but sometimes other things try to crowd into our hearts.

Ask each family member to name something or someone they give their time to. They add a rock to the glass for the item. Continue until all the rocks are used.

Ask: What happened to the water? Why? How is this like what happens in our own hearts with God? How can we keep our hearts full of God?

Game: Outta My Heart

Hang a paper heart on the wall behind a table or chair. Place an upside down plastic cup or empty food box in front of the heart. Let kids take turns trying to knock the idol out of the heart to make room for God. You can use a light-weight ball or rolled-up socks.

Closing Prayer:

Remember the golden calf the Israelites made? It made God very angry. Let's see what happened. Read Nehemiah 9:18-21. At some point all of us will likely make an idol or give too much time to something. Remember that God loves you and will show you mercy (forgive you), if you just say sorry.

Dear Lord, thank you for being a God that deserves our time and attention. We're sorry for the times we've let something else become like an idol. We're sorry for the times we make that mistake. Forgive us and help us to do better. Amen.