



LIFEGROUPS

Series: Respect What?

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-3

Date: April 2 & 3, 2016

—[LET'S TALK]—

- What's the best April fools' joke or prank that you've ever seen?

—[LET'S WARM UP]—

- What are some common idols and false gods you see in our culture today?
- How easy is it to fall into idolatry or worshipping a false god? Why?
- Why do we (as human beings) have so much trouble when it comes to rules?
- What do you believe about human nature? (Basically good, bad, neither, etc.)

—[LET'S DIG | CHOOSE 1]—

- Read Isaiah 44:6-20 and talk about idolatry.
 1. How do God's nature and promises differ from idols?
 2. Do idols truly deliver their promise? If not, why do we make idols?
 3. What do you notice about the making of an idol (verses 12-14)?
 4. How does this compare to the making of modern (usually non-physical) idols?
- Read Matthew 5:17-20 & John 14:15-27 and talk about God's Law.
 1. What is the difference between abolishing and fulfilling?
 2. If Jesus has fulfilled the Law, why does he say we should practice and teach it?
 3. What role does the Holy Spirit play in keeping God's commands?
 4. What does this mean for our part? What are we to do?

—[LET'S ACT]—

- Practice recognizing potential idols and false gods in your life and giving them to God.
- As you go about your week, keep a small notepad handy (either paper or electronic), pay attention to and take note of things that claim power, or offer satisfaction apart from God. It may be a song, a politician or political agenda, something you read, or even your own goals, thoughts, and desires! While they may not all be idols, they are potential idols for you and others. As you take note of these things, pray for God's authority over each of them.



—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Scriptures referenced: [Jn 3:16-17] - [Rom 3:20-25] - [1 Jn 3:1; 5:21]
- We are all rebels and lawbreakers—just like Israel—by nature. We cannot perfectly keep the Law. But Jesus, taking away our condemnation, is God’s love for us.
- Even though God has shown grace and love through Jesus, the Law is still the Law, and we still need to follow things like the 10 Commandments.
- Before speaking the first commandment, God declares His eternal nature and rescuing, saving, and loving acts—not just for the Israelites, but for all of us who have been adopted through Christ into His family.
- The first commandment tells us not to worship false gods or idols. A false god or idol is any person, object, or activity we give a higher priority to in our hearts than God.
- God loves us and knows that anyone or anything that we think can satisfy us more than Him will consume and eventually destroy our lives.
- Only God can truly satisfy us, because only God was willing to sacrifice Himself for us. False gods don’t die for you; they demand that you die for them.

—[**NOTES**]—
