

WEEK 5: FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

Ice Breaker: When has something totally lived up to the hype? Tell us about it.

This week, we kicked off a new series about our deepest God-given longings, which can become disoriented. We were made to love God first, but we've put other things in first place instead. This is the essence of idolatry, and is at the heart of so much of what's wrong in the world. This series is a chance to get our hearts pointed in the right direction again.

Getting Started.

- What's something you've longed for that, once receiving it, didn't live up to the hype/hope?
- Michael mentioned justice, beauty, transcendence, and relationships as 4 "echoes" of our deepest longing for God. How do you observe those in your own or others' longings?
- What are the common "idols" in our culture?

Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and Matthew 22:34-40.

- Compare/contrast these two passages. What stands out to you?
- What are the things that most occupy your **mind**?
- What/who is your **heart** inclined to be given to? What/who do you feel for most easily?
- How are you wasting your **strength**? How are you putting it to good use?
- What does your **soul** "long" for?

"We were created to know and to be known by God, to love and to be loved by God."

- How does that fit with your own answer to "what's the meaning of life?"?
- If the above statement is true, which of your priorities should change? Why? How?
- How would life be different if you truly found your deepest sense of purpose, meaning, identity, or joy in God before anything else?
- What are some things that you've counted as more important than God?

Idols and Idolatry.

- How would you define an "idol"? What does it do for you? What does it want from you?
- What are your warning signs that you're turning a good thing to an ultimate thing?
 - Hint: disproportionate disappointment, pressure, or hope are all examples.
- Besides Sunday mornings, how do you worship (turn your heart to) God?
- How can you build time into your life this week to give God more attention?

LET'S PRAY!

We all have idols. The question is: what are yours?

It's possible you've never considered this question. Our hope is throughout this series, some of your idols will become exposed (and replaced by Jesus!). Break up into groups of 3-4 (M/F) and share any idols that you're aware of already. After everyone has a chance to share, pray for one another that God will expose our idols over the course of the next few weeks. And remember: this week we are praying for our Community Groups, so don't forget to pray for them too (tonight, and all week)!

