

Small Group Discussion Guide

EXODUS 20:4-6

“Faith, Not Sight”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 11/16/25

Background

As we study the Ten Commandments, particularly the second commandment, it is important to remember what God did in Egypt where they were afflicted for 400 years (Genesis 15:13). The ten plagues that resulted in the Hebrews being redeemed from slavery targeted the Egyptian plethora of false gods, showing that there is only one true God worthy of our worship. Mankind has an innate desire to worship – either rightly or wrongly. We are wired to worship (Ecclesiastes 3:11) and when we don't worship the one true God we will inevitably worship something else (Romans 1:21-23). Idolatry is misdirected worship; worshipping the created instead of the Creator. There is no faith in worshipping that which we can see and hold.

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. As a kid, did you ever have a 'security object'—like a blanket, stuffed animal, or lucky charm? What made it so comforting, and how do you think that connects to how we sometimes treat visible things in our faith?

Observation

2. Read Exodus 20:4-6. What are all the verbs (actions words) used in this passage? Be thorough.
3. Who are all the people referred to in this passage? Again, be comprehensive.
4. What does the term, “thousands,” refer to in Exodus 20:6? Hint: Check different translations and/or read the footnote attached in your Bible.

Interpretation

5. Read Isaiah 44:9-20. Discuss the folly of worshipping an idol according to this passage.
6. Why do you think God is so adamant that making carved images for worship is wrong? What are the dangers in doing so?
7. Read Romans 10:17. How does faith, hearing, and the Word of God work together to help us understand the 2nd Commandment?
8. Read 2 Corinthians 5:6-10. How does 2 Cor. 5:7 connect with the second commandment?

Application

9. It is a natural human tendency to walk by sight, which means to rely on what we can see, control, or measure rather than trusting God's unseen promises. Give examples of walking by sight. One example would be fearing what we see in the news.
10. Walking by faith means trusting God's character, His Word and promises, and His presence and love for us even when circumstances are unclear, uncomfortable, or unseen. Give examples of walking by faith. One example would be resting in God during uncertainty.