

09 IDOLS AND LIES

KEY TEXT: HOSEA 10:5-15

CENTRAL **truth**

Instead of relying on God to meet our needs, we often put our faith in people, situations, belongings, and organizations that cannot guarantee our well-being, safety, or success. This not only hurts us, but also keeps us from seeing who God is and what He is capable of. It also keeps people who need to know Him from seeing Him do amazing things in and through our lives. We can trust God to bless us when we choose to do things His way, but **if we reject God, we should expect to experience His judgment.**

key question

What happens when we decide for ourselves what is right and wrong instead of measuring by God's standard?

God is holy, wise, all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing, and just. His ways are always correct. None of this is true of us. In fact, what seems right to us often leads to sin and destruction (see Prov. 14:12). When we follow our own instincts instead of relying on God to set the standard for our thoughts, words, actions, and attitudes, we not only doom ourselves to failure, but rob the world of the opportunity to see God at work in and through us. We give people the wrong idea about God and miss the chance to participate in God's plan.

keep in mind

We've been talking a lot about false worship lately. We've encouraged students to be discerning about church leadership and to make sure their worship is sincere. However, we should be careful not to foster cynicism.

Also remember that even if your students have grown up in church, they are still learning how to appreciate and fully participate in corporate worship. Explain that we need to be careful about the way we worship because it is a privilege and a powerful opportunity to interact with and bless God. Emphasize that while church attendance and participation in sacraments like baptism and the Lord's Supper are important, these experiences are only meaningful when they lead us to contemplate, celebrate, and make much of God.

application

What can we expect God to do when we put our trust in something besides Him? How should we respond when He does?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students need to understand that worship that glorifies God is meaningful and worthwhile, but worship of anything but God or insincere worship of God comes with consequences. Students should determine whether they are putting their trust in God or in something else.

FOR THE LEADER: Help students see the value of participating in meaningful worship. Help them take the next steps toward trusting God in their current circumstances.