

# 02 A DISLOYAL PEOPLE

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 2:1-13

## CENTRAL truth

Our Creator has placed longings in us, His creations. These good longings include a need for love, joy, and meaning. But if we're not careful, we will create things to fulfill our own longings instead of looking to our Creator to fill them. This is what's known as *idolatry*. Jeremiah confronted Judah about how they had replaced loving loyalty to the living God with the pursuit of lifeless idols. The prophet challenged the people to remember: **nothing can replace God.**

## key question

**Why was it a problem for God's people to worship idols? Why is worshipping idols harmful even today?**

God's people fall into idolatry when they give idols the glory God deserves or look to idols for the provision that only God truly provides. It's wrong to rob God of the glory due Him and give what He rightfully deserves to an idol, and it's harmful because we become what we worship. Those who worship lifeless idols become increasingly lifeless themselves.

## keep in mind

- We are created to worship; it's never a question of *if* we'll worship, but *what* or *whom* we'll worship. If we don't intentionally give our thoughts, attitudes, and actions to knowing God and giving Him glory, we will give the glory that He's due to other things. Students need help identifying what idols look like in their context. Is their greatest focus, greatest amount of words, and greatest energies given to God or something or someone else?
- Jeremiah said God's people became useless because of worshipping useless idols. When we worship God, His Spirit makes us more like Him (loving, good, peaceful, purposeful, etc). Teenagers often struggle with feelings of unworthiness, so reading that idolatry made God's people "worthless" may be hard for them. Help them understand that God sees them as worthy and loved, and that His greatest desire is for their ultimate good.

## application

**What can we find in God that we can't find in anything else?**

## the win

**FOR THE STUDENT:** Everything Jesus is represents everything we most deeply want to be: compassionate, gentle, bold, brave, creative, and loving. When we devote our lives to Jesus, His Holy Spirit transforms us into becoming more like Him. Students need to understand this is more than just a "don't worship idols" message. This is about becoming the glorious expression of God's grace that we each have been created to be.

**FOR THE LEADER:** Help students to see that if they don't worship God, they will worship something else instead. Help them with practical ways to aim their worship at the only One worthy of it.

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