

CITYGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

OUTSIDERS



Week 4 (week 8 of groups)

Week of March 6, 2016

#CityGroupsTally

REMINDERS for leaders:

- 1) Remember these key reminders as you begin to meet again:
 - Find an APPRENTICE. My challenge for EVERY group leader is to find someone you can teach about leading a group. Ever since Jesus, the gospel has spread and churches have grown by individuals teaching others what they know. Find someone in your group who can learn what you know.
 - Pray, Pray, Pray! God loves to work through the prayers of his people, in fact, that's the primary way he's chosen to act in the world. He allows us to be a part of his work through prayer. Pray for God to move in you, your group, our church, and our city.

ANNOUNCEMENTS for all groups before starting discussion:

DANIEL DEVOTIONAL GUIDE: You can access devotional guides through the grow page on our website or at CityChurchTallahassee.com/Daniel

CHOOSE AN INCONVENIENT SERVICE: We are asking anyone who calls City Church his or her home to please commit to attend the 9:00am or 11:55am service. The 10:30am service is the time where most first time guests are likely to attend and we really need to make space for them. Obviously, if you have a friend coming for the first time, choose the service that is most convenient for that person. Thank you!

BIG IDEA(s):

The Lord says, "You shall have no other gods before me." God himself is the only one worthy of our worship.

Daniel 3: 16-18 is the summary verse for this week.

PRAY: Pray for clarity, understanding, and nearness to God through His Word.

READ and SUMMARIZE: Read all of Chapter 3. Have the group break down what is going on in this chapter. What are the main parts of this true account?

HEAD (10 minutes)

- 1) Neb built himself a great statue, or an “*idol.*” What is an idol? What are some common idols in our day?
- 2) Why wouldn't the three Hebrew boys bow down to the statue?
- 3) What is significant about the start of verse 18? What were these boys prepared for?
- 4) What happened to the king's guards? Do idols have any power to save?
 - A) Re-read Neb's response to the failed execution in 3:28-30. Why do you think the Babylonians would worship something so powerless?

HEART: (15 minutes)

- 1) Neb seems to be wowed by the miraculous but his worship doesn't last. So far he keeps reverting back to the idols he sets up himself. In what ways can you relate to King Neb? What are some idols in your life that you keep running back to?
- 2) If idols are so powerless, why do you and I always give ourselves away to them? What are you holding onto that you need to surrender?
- 3) *Idolatry is always a worship issue. When you have idols, you are worshipping or valuing something more than you are worshipping God. Take a few moments to read through the 20 diagnostic statements below. Tell your group to think through the top 3 that they identify with and we're going to kill those idols together. Lead with your own top 3.*

HANDS (10 Minutes):

- 1) Take a look at 1 Corinthians 10:12-14. Maybe you've identified an idol tonight (everyone has them). What will it take to tear that down? What are some practical steps you can take this week to start killing that idol? (Prayer, repentance, church accountability, dwelling in God's word, changing your thinking by replacing it with God's Word, making your faith public, getting some counseling, etc.)
- 2) Do people know you're a Christian? Take steps to start living your faith publicly this week. This will always start with your private relationship with God first, however, a private faith is incomplete without public expression.

Take a few moments to pray for the faith to live obediently as Christians hoping for the eternal kingdom of God. Pray for specific decisions that need to be made and people that need to be reached out to and for sin that needs repentance.

20 Diagnostic Statements for identifying Heart Idols.

Take a look at these 20 piercing questions from Tim Keller. These are great questions to ask when counseling, prepping a sermon—and (gasp!) to ask ourselves to diagnose heart idols. Consider getting Keller’s book, Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters

“Life only has meaning/I only have worth if...

- I have power and influence over others.” **(Power Idolatry)**
- I am loved and respected by ____.” **(Approval Idolatry)**
- I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life.” **(Comfort idolatry)**
- I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of ____.” **(Control idolatry)**
- people are dependent on me and need me.” **(Helping Idolatry)**
- someone is there to protect me and keep me safe.” **(Dependence idolatry)**
- I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone.” **(Independence idolatry)**
- I am highly productive and getting a lot done.” **(Work idolatry)**
- I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work.” **(Achievement idolatry)**
- I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions.” **(Materialism idolatry)**
- I am adhering to my religion’s moral codes and accomplished in its activities.” **(Religion idolatry)**
- This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me.” **(Individual person idolatry)**
- I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality.” **(Irreligion idolatry)**
- My race and culture is ascendant and recognized as superior.” **(Racial/cultural idolatry)**
- A particular social grouping or professional grouping or other group lets me in.” **(Inner ring idolatry)**
- My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me.” **(Family idolatry)**
- Mr. or Ms. “Right” is in love with me.” **(Relationship Idolatry)**
- I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt.” **(Suffering idolatry)**
- my political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power.” **(Ideology idolatry)**
- I have a particular kind of look or body image.” **(Image idolatry)**

Taken from J.A. Medders’ blog.

<http://jamedders.com/heart-idols/>