

Mental

Love God First

ISAIAH 44:6-20

SESSION 6.29



☐ *Prepare in Advance*

Facilitator: In advance of the session:

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the *Bible Background Video* ready to view.

☐ *Introduce*

Introduce today's session:

- First ask: Do you think people still worship idols today? If so, give some examples.
- Now have someone read Isaiah 44:6-20 out loud. Watch the *Bible Background Video*, then use the following questions to guide discussion.

☐ *Hand-made Gods*

First let's look at verses 9-20. Here Isaiah is describing human workmen creating their own idols.

- What materials are being used to make the idols described? What does Isaiah remind his hearers about the materials themselves?
- What happens to the blacksmith while he is working (v. 12), and why is it significant?
- Why is it ironic that the woodworker uses the same piece of wood to create an idol that he uses to cook his food?
- What do you think Isaiah means when he says "such a person feeds on ashes" (v. 20)?
- Isaiah certainly has harsh words for those who make and worship idols!
- Why is idol worship such a dangerous thing? What does it do to the idol-maker and the idol-worshiper?
- What does idolatry distract God's people from, and how does it separate us from the True God?
- Outside of physical images or objects, what other things can be idols? Try to develop your group's own definition of "idol."
- What kinds of idols do we worship today? How do we "create" them, even if they are not physical? What "materials" do we use?
- Why are today's idols just as dangerous as the idolatry Isaiah describes? What does today's idolatry do to the idol-maker and the idol-worshiper?

☐ *Choosing the True God*

- Now let's return to the first part (verses 6-8) and see God's words to us in the face of idolatry.
- Reread verses 6-8 aloud. What is said about God, and how does God compare with these idols?
- Why can God's worshipers take comfort (v. 8)?
- How does this passage speak to us today, in the midst of many idols we often don't even recognize?
- How might we begin – and regularly return – to recognize the idols we often chase after, and replace them with worshiping the True God?

Close with prayer.

By Jon Parks

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