

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDE 3

GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM ALONE

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: LIVING IN FREEDOM / SERIES: EXODUS

BIG TRUTH: GOD COMMANDS US TO WORSHIP HIM ALONE

Deuteronomy 6:4, 14-15

BIBLE VERSE: EXODUS 20:4-6

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

BIG IDEAS

- God is one.
- Idols are false saviors who make empty promises that will never lead to life.
- The command against idolatry is a call to revere God as He has revealed Himself to be.

BIBLE PASSAGE: ISAIAH 55:9-13

UNITE: LIVING IN FREEDOM

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as "God's People" and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- God is the One True God, and He has all authority
- The law is given by God to reveal our sin and need for a Savior
- The law is given by God to tell His redeemed people how to live



Every student should feel...

- Grateful for God who brings His people out of slavery
- Convicted of the ways that they ignore the law that revives the soul
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the book of Exodus
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Be obedient to God's commands and repent of disobedience



Every student should want...

- Repent of their tendencies to assume their own authority
- Grow as faithful servants of Jesus
- Help others move out of slavery to sin toward freedom in Christ

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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God commands His people not to create idols from created things.

"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth."

- God is the supreme ruler and creator of all creation. All life comes from Him and He alone is worthy of our worship. God created all things and commands His people to not make idols out of things that He created.
- Any idol that a person would make would be from creation. Because we cannot create out of nothing, the idols we create are made from things that God created. God commands His people to reject idols because we are to worship nothing but Him.

God commands His people to reject worshiping created things.

"You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God..."

- God commands His people to reject worshiping created things. Yet, our hearts are prone to idol worship. We are created to long for worship, to praise that which is greater than ourselves. In our sin, we fill the highest place in our lives with all kinds of things. These are idols, fashioned out of things that God has created, stealing the worship that only He is due.
- God alone is worthy of our worship, and worshiping idols is rebellion against God. God desires His people's hearts and their love for Him. God's people are commanded to reject worshiping anything other than the Creator Himself.

God disciplines His people for idol worship and remains steadfast to those who love Him.

"visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments."

- God is a good God who loves His people. He disciplines those who stray to bring them back to Himself. His training of His people is like that of a father with his child.
- God is a steadfast and faithful God. He remains steadfast to His people and shows steadfast love to those who keep His commandments. This promise is given to those who love God and out of that love keep His commandments.

GOD COMMANDS US TO
WORSHIP HIM ALONE**BIG IDEA #1: GOD IS ONE.¹****[THIS]**

In Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses reminds the Israelites that God is the one true God. He reminds them that God is one and there are no other gods. They are reminded of this truth because they have been rescued from Egypt, a nation that worshiped many false gods. The Israelites had spent years in Egypt around a people who worshiped multiple false gods. God reminded them of His oneness and their responsibility to worship Him alone. He alone is worthy of our worship because He alone is God. In Isaiah 55:9-13, the God speaks through the prophet, Isaiah to reveal His uniqueness and oneness. In verse 9, God reveals that His thoughts and ways are higher than man's. This truth reveals that there is no rival to God. There is no one like God. God reveals that He is the most powerful being of all beings. He is the Creator of all things and rules over all creation. God's oneness is important to understand because it is what sets Him apart from the many false gods that are created by mankind.

[THEREFORE]**Why is God's oneness important for His people to understand?**

1 Corinthians 8:6 and Isaiah 43:11 help us see the importance of understanding that God is one. We must understand that there is one God and He is unique in order to understand that there is one Savior. There is only one way to be saved and that is through God's Son. God is not a feeling; God is not some mystical being that we can shape in our minds to be how we want Him to be. God is one.

[THIS]

For believers today, knowing that God is one is as important as it was for the ancient Israelites. Though we are not entering a Promised Land; we are facing many idols and false gods. There are many religions that seem like they are or could be true, yet they are all false. Understanding that there is one God and He is the only God is necessary to finding salvation and living out our faith. In Isaiah 55:9-13, God speaks through Isaiah to proclaim the power of His Word and the fruitfulness of it. Salvation is found in the one true God alone. When we understand that God is not made up of many gods or a combination of many gods, we can begin to know Yahweh, the one true God. This is the God who is worthy of our worship. God alone is to be worshiped. We are not to worship ourselves, created things, or any other worldly thing that takes our affection.

[THEREFORE]**What are some ways we try to make God a combination of false gods?**

To accommodate our sin and what our flesh desires, in our minds we will think of God as if He is a combination of false gods. We will add to His character or take away from it to appease our lifestyles. Isaiah 44:6 reminds us that there is one God who has always been and will always be. He is the only God and there are no others.

Why is it challenging to worship God alone?

Romans 1:25 helps us understand our tendency to turn to idols. We exchange the truth about God for a lie and worship what He has created rather than worshiping Him. We find worshiping Him alone not enough for us and we turn to worshiping other things in addition or instead.

1. Deuteronomy 6:4: God is the one true God. He alone is God, there are no others.

GOD COMMANDS US TO
WORSHIP HIM ALONE**BIG IDEA #2: IDOLS ARE FALSE SAVIORS WHO MAKE EMPTY PROMISES THAT WILL NEVER LEAD TO LIFE.²****[THIS]**

When the ancient Israelites created idols, they did so using created objects like metal, wood, and jewelry. They carved these objects into animals and other images that mimicked false gods of the pagan nations they encountered. These false idols were gods they would bow down to and worship as if these inanimate objects had caused the sun to shine on them or made it rain on their crops. They attributed to these idols actions and blessings that were actually the work of God, Yahweh. This type of worship was revolting and a great betrayal. It was an outright denial and rejection of the true God who sustained them and showed them a steadfast and faithful love even when they grumbled and complained against Him. These idols were false saviors that did not save them. These idols could not keep the Israelites from being dispersed or taken into captivity. They could not rescue them from their bondage or open closed wombs. They were useless unlike the one true God.

[THEREFORE]

How do false saviors lead us to believe lies and prevent us from finding true salvation?

In Revelation 9:20-21 we see that idol worship leads to eternal damnation. Continuing to worship false saviors leads us to miss true salvation, which is only found in Christ. False saviors keep us in darkness, and we remain enslaved to our sin natures. This leads to eternal death.

[THIS]

Today, when we worship false gods, we don't necessarily create carved images or melt our jewelry down to create golden animals. Instead, our hearts are focused and given over to other things. We love earthly things, such as money, success, other people, and even ourselves more than we love God. We love our comfort and our individualism more than we love serving God. We trust in our own efforts to provide for ourselves. This leads us to live an empty life for the Lord. These things are false saviors leading us to eternal death as well. We can miss true salvation when we do not understand that only God is the true God and He is worthy giving up everything to follow. In our life today, our false saviors make promises that are empty and leave us wanting more and more of what the world has to offer. God offers us satisfaction in Him and eternal life.

[THEREFORE]

What false saviors are you prone to worship instead of worshiping God?

Psalm 115:4-8 shows us that idols are the works of our hands. We can worship actual physical idols, but we can also worship our own efforts, success, and even other people. We can worship a comfortable life or things that make us feel like we are safe. Our worship should only be focused on God.

How can you put to death the false saviors you have in your life?

Colossians 3:5 tells us to put to death what is earthly in us. We are to put off the works of the flesh. As we seek to put on the fruit of the Spirit and put to death the work of the flesh, we will put to death the false saviors in our lives. When we do this, we will worship God alone.

² Psalm 115:4-8: Idols are useless and do nothing to help the people who make them or worship them.

GOD COMMANDS US TO
WORSHIP HIM ALONE**BIG IDEA #3: THE COMMAND AGAINST IDOLATRY IS A CALL TO REVERE GOD AS HE HAS REVEALED HIMSELF TO BE.³****[THIS]**

God revealed Himself in creation, placing His mark on the natural world and His image on mankind. For those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, God is revealed through His creation. God spoke to His people and revealed Himself and His commands to them. He revealed His oneness and uniqueness. He revealed His holiness and His command for them to be holy. He even revealed His salvation plan for all the world. The command for God's people to reject idols is a command for His people to worship God as the God He is revealed Himself to be. God can be known because He has revealed Himself. The Israelites could know God because He spoke to them through His prophets and eventually through His written word. God's people were not to add anything to God or take anything away. They were not to assume things about God, but they were to trust that what God has revealed is what they need to know. God's command to worship Him alone is a command to worship Him for who He is.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to worship God for who He is and not for something we make Him to be?

God is the supreme ruler of all things. He determines how He is to be worshiped. Because of this truth, we must worship Him as He has revealed Himself to be. Isaiah 25:1 helps us understand how to do this because God works in our lives and the world revealing who He is to us.

[THIS]

We can know God through His Word and the ways in which He works through His people and in our own lives. God's Word reveals His truth to us, and His truth is proven by God's faithfulness in our own lives, in the lives of His people connected to us, and in those around the world. God has shown us in His Word who He is. He is not a God who is hidden from His people. Instead, He allows us to know Him and to be in relationship with Him. Because of this, we must reject creating idols that attempt to replace Him. We must reject adding anything to His character or taking away anything. He does not need us to explain or justify anything for Him. He is who He has revealed Himself to be and our response must be to revere Him and fall down in worship. When we understand who God has revealed Himself to be, we will praise Him. We will see His glory, His mercy, and His grace, and we will worship Him.

[THEREFORE]

What things are you tempted to add or take away from God to make Him something that fits your lifestyle?

1 Timothy 1:17 reminds us that God is unlike man. He is eternal and His character is perfect. Often, we make God out to be someone who fits some idea we have or fits some experience we've had. God is who He reveals Himself to be in His Word and we are commanded to worship Him as such.

What part of God's character revealed in His Word can you worship this week?

Numbers 23:19 and Deuteronomy 32:4 give us an understanding of who God is. We see He does not lie, and He is just and upright. God is more than these things, but these are some of the reasons why we should worship Him daily.

3. Revelation 15:4: God is to be feared because He is holy and His righteous acts have been revealed.