

Sermon-Based Small Group Preparation

For the week of October 16, 2011

“How to Wreck Your Life”

Sermon Series: *How to Wreck Your Life* (week 1 of 5)

Exodus 32:1, 22-24

Please look over these questions *before* your Small Group meeting.

Getting Started

- 1) What do you think of when you hear the word "idol"? An image made of gold? A TV show? A rock star?
- 2) In this weekend's sermon, Pastor Harrington made the comment that "we all have idols." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
- 3) What are some reasons that people pursue other things to the point that these things become the main focus in their lives? What do they hope to get from them?
- 4) *Read Exodus 32:22-24*
"Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

What do you think about Aaron's explanation of how the golden calf came about?

Into the Bible

Exodus chapter 32 relates the story of Aaron and the golden calf. It is interesting to note that while the calf was being made, Moses was receiving the Ten Commandments (the first two of which state, "You shall have no other gods before me," and, "You shall not make for yourself any carved image... You shall not bow to them nor serve them").

There are many references to idols in the Bible, and God's displeasure with those who worship them is written in no uncertain terms.

As you read the following scriptures consider God's responses to those who worship idols.

Read Exodus 32:7-10

⁷ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁹ "I have seen these people," the LORD said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation." (NIV)

Read Ephesians 5:5

For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. (NIV)

Read Jonah 2:8

Those who cling to worthless idols
forfeit the grace that could be theirs. (NIV)

Read Ezekiel 6:8-9

⁸ But I will spare some, for some of you will escape the sword when you are scattered among the lands and nations. ⁹ Then in the nations where they have been carried captive, those who escape will remember me—how I have been grieved by their adulterous hearts, which have turned away from me, and by their eyes, which have lusted after their idols. They will loathe themselves for the evil they have done and for all their detestable practices. (NIV)

Even though God gets angry about our idols, ultimately he wants us to realize that he is the only true God. We must come to the place where we know that our idols cannot give us what we really need.

