



10 COMMANDMENTS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Second Commandment: Idols

(Deuteronomy 5.1-6, 8-10)

The week of September 23rd, 2018

WELCOME

Since it's still early in the year, spend some time having everyone introduce themselves. Go around the room and have everyone share their name, where they live, what they do during the day, etc. Also talk about your group schedule and format, expectations, how your meetings will go, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share the following things coming up in the life of the church:

- **New City Guys' Burger Triathlon | Saturday, September 29th 8am, noon, and 7p**

Guys...join us for a burger, TWO burgers, or THREE, that's right THREE, burgers in one day during our New City Guys' Burger Triathlon on Saturday, August 29th. (There'll be ample time in between stops to head home to do chores and/or watch college football and/or nap). Visit the City for a full listing of locations and times: <https://goo.gl/V7uxvT>

- **New City Women's Retreat | October 5-6**

Women of New City! Join us for the annual fall retreat October 5-6 at the Athletes in Action Retreat Center in Xenia! This year, our retreat speaker will be Beth Guckenberger of Back2Back Ministries and author of a new book, "Start with Amen". For additional details and registration, please visit <https://newcitycincy.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/153273>

OPENING PRAYER

Open your group in prayer. Pray extemporaneously, or use this prayer:

Your law is perfect, making wise the simple. In your law, you have provided for us clear guidance concerning how we are to worship you. Empower us to neither add nor subtract from your commands. Teach us to desire your commands more than fine gold and to consider your precepts sweeter than honey. Keep our actions and thoughts pure and true so that we rightly and reverently offer you worship. Prevent us from shaping you according to our own insecurities, intellects, imaginations, and ideas. Enable us to know you as you have revealed yourself to us in your Word. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

ICBREAKER

What do you think is the coolest painting/piece of artwork you've ever seen (in person or a copy/poster/facsimile)?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

1. Read **Deuteronomy 5.1-6, 8-10**.
2. What does it mean (and not mean) that God is jealous?

3. We don't tend to have "idols" in the sense of figurines in a shrine in our home, but if you had to name the top 3 American idols, so to speak, what would they be and why? (Ex. Neil Gaiman's *American Gods* names new "gods" such as Media - the goddess of television, Technical Boy - god of computers and the internet, and the Intangibles - new gods of the stock markets).
4. As you think of your own family or other families you know well, how does the warning contained in the second commandment affect the way you view family difficulties and the legacy that parents are leaving for their children?
5. **Read Exodus 32.** While Moses was on the mountain receiving the Law of God, events at the foot of the mountain took a shocking turn. The series of events appears to take place over two days and night. What are the key points of decision by Aaron and the people?
6. Why apparently causes the Israelites to yearn for new gods (32.1)?
4. Have you ever experienced yearnings similar to those of the Israelites? Explain.
5. How did Aaron attempt to mix idolatry and the worship of God (32.5-6)?
6. What potential "golden calves" threaten to steal our allegiance today?
7. **Read Acts 17.16-34.** What is Paul's main argument? Why was this an effective approach to reach his audience?
8. What makes "idols"/non-gods so appealing? What are some ways in which Christians in general, and you in particular, are tempted toward idolatry?
9. How can idolatry be guarded against?
10. How would our church and neighborhood be different if we rooted out the idols from among us?

PRAY

Take some time to pray together. This can be done together as a whole group, or in smaller groups. Exchange prayer requests. You may also use the prayer below if it's helpful. (And leaders, follow up with a post on the City or as a "Resource" in Planning Center with a list of prayer requests as a reminder to be praying for one another).