



UNIT 13 | SESSION 5

WE ARE TO WORSHIP GOD ALONE

ISAIAH 44

KEY PASSAGE:

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Many agree that sin is often, if not always, contrived from selfish ambitions. We can see how our actions, thoughts, and words that disregard God’s instructions for our lives develop from our desire for more, better, or different than what we currently have. Our sin is a statement that we believe that our ways are better than God’s and that we ultimately know better than Him.

The implications of our selfishness in sin don’t stop there. They don’t only disregard God’s instruction, God’s authority, and God’s design for us. They don’t only seek our own pleasure and comfort. Our sinful actions, thoughts, and words also tell a story to those around us of what we believe is most important and where we find direction for our lives.

Sin is always problematic and self-serving, but it also has an impact on others far greater than our circumstances often reflect.

When we build or follow an idol (something we put in the place of God), we are actually replacing the Creator with created things. Idolatry is not a benefit to anyone. The pursuit of idols is futile because they hold no real power.

Isaiah 44:9 reads, “All who make idols are nothing, and what they treasure benefits no one. Their witnesses do not see or know

anything, so they will be put to shame.”

Our love of things other than God testifies to the world around us that God is not good enough, that He does not satisfy, and that He won’t do what He says He will do. For an ambassador of Christ, this is not the message the dying world should hear from us.

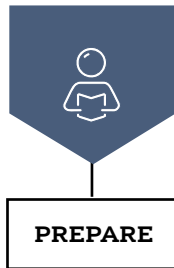
The next time you think that your love of something other than God is just a personal problem, reconsider how it may very well be proclaiming to those around you a gospel of hopelessness. And remember that God does satisfy, He is enough, and He always does what He says He will do.

OLD TESTAMENT IDOLS

Exodus 32: golden calf

2 Kings 18: bronze serpent

1 Kings 12: gold calves



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “Hidden Word” activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- music

Session Starter (Option 2)

- real fruit such as apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, etc.
- fake fruit such as apples, bananas, grapes, oranges, etc.



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “We Are to Worship God Alone” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- clay (optional)

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 13, Session 5” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- “Early Days” missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- dry erase board
- dry erase marker



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “One True God Crossword” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Have you ever been so excited about something that you thought about it all the time? What did you do while you waited for it to happen? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Hidden Word” on the activity page.

SAY “ Great job finding the word ‘worship’! Worshiping God is not something we have to hide. Everything we do, say, or think should be an act of worship toward God. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that we are to worship God alone. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: FIRST AND LAST



Assemble kids into two groups. Ask each group to form a line. Direct each kid to move from the back of the line to the front of the line while you play music. The kid who is at the front of the line must run around to the back of the line. Explain that the kid must reach the back of the line before the next kid can move there. Tell kids that when the music stops, the kids at the front and back of the line are out.

Continue playing until only two kids from each team remain. Play again if time allows.

SAY “ In the Bible, God declares Himself to be the first and the last, or the Alpha and the Omega. God gives Himself this name because of His eternal nature. God has always been and always will be. God is God alone. We were made to worship Him. ”

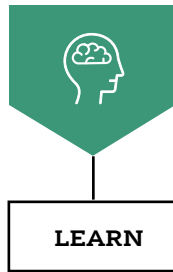
OPTION 2: HOW DO THEY COMPARE?

Place a bag of real and fake fruit together at the front of the room. Explain that you have several pieces of real fruit and several pieces of fake fruit. Form kids into two teams and provide each team with a piece of paper and a pencil. Take one piece of fruit from the bag and ask the teams whether the fruit you are holding is the real thing or a fake. Challenge each team to work together to guess if the fruit is real or fake. Tell each team to keep score of how many correct guesses they get.

The team with the most correct guesses at the end of the game is the winner.

SAY “ What were some ways you could tell which pieces of fruit were real and which were fake? [Allow responses.] Today’s story reminds us that no false god or idol can compare to the one, true, living God. ”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome, kids! I am so glad you’re here! My name is [your name] and today I get to share a story from God’s Word with you. Hold up your Bible if you brought it with you today. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] The more we read our Bibles, the more we can know God. Reading our Bibles also helps us to understand why God made us.

Throughout the last several weeks we have been learning that no one and nothing compares to God. As you read the Bible on your own, you’ll discover that every story points to the truth that God alone is worthy to be worshiped. I’m excited to share this story from the book of Isaiah with you today. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

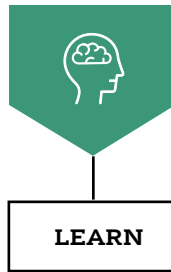
SAY “ We have been learning about the sin of idolatry. **What is idolatry?** [Allow responses.] **Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.** Sometimes idols can be hard to recognize in our lives. One way to identify an idol in your life is to think about how you would feel if something you valued was taken away. If you feel hopeless or become very angry, that thing may be an idol.

We were made to worship God alone. Only He can make our hearts truly happy and content. Jesus helps us to turn from idols by reminding us that only He can save. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ Throughout the last several weeks, we have learned how God’s people struggled with idolatry and how God used men, called prophets, to turn their hearts back to Him. Today, we will hear the message God told His people through the prophet Isaiah. This message reminded God’s people, and reminds us as well, that He alone is the one true God. Only God is worthy of worship. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Isaiah 44. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Are to Worship God Alone.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

WE ARE TO WORSHIP GOD ALONE

“Isaiah was a prophet who lived long ago—more than 700 years before Jesus was born—in the time when Israel was ruled by kings. God had chosen Isaiah to take God’s message to His people, the Israelites. The name Isaiah means “The Lord saves.” God used Isaiah to tell His people a very important message.

This was the word of the Lord—the message from God—that Isaiah the prophet spoke to the descendants of Jacob. **Isaiah said, “Listen, Israel. This is what the Lord, the King of Israel, says: I am the first and the last—the one true God. Can anyone else say what will happen in the future? No. Do not be surprised or afraid. I told you this long ago: There is no God but me.**

“Everyone who makes idols wastes their time. They look to their idols for help, but no help comes. Their idols are worthless. Those people will be ashamed by their idolatry.

“The ironworker labors over coals, shaping an idol with hammers. As he works, he gets hungry, thirsty, and tired. The woodworker measures and chisels wood. He uses a compass to make an idol in a form he thinks up on his own. **People look to their idols for salvation, but iron and wood cannot save.**

“Remember these things, people of Israel. I will never forget about you. Do not worship created things. I—your Creator—have swept away your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. Rejoice! This is what I have done for you. Sing and shout, for the Lord—the one true God—is glorified through you.”

Christ Connection: God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use clay: Mold clay into animals or other objects as you tell the story. Remind kids that the idols the people worshiped were created things. Smash down the clay when you tell the kids that idols are worthless.

Show emotion: Show different emotions as you tell the story. Display sadness or even anger as you tell kids about the worthless idols. Show happiness and joy when you tell kids about God’s grace and salvation.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Through the prophet Isaiah, God spoke to the people and reminded them that they should worship Him alone. Isaiah told the people that idols are worthless. Why are idols worthless? [Allow responses.] Idols are worthless because they can do nothing. They cannot hear. They can’t even speak. Idols can never save anyone from their sin.

What did God say He had done for Israel? Look at Isaiah 44:22. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 44:22.] God told His people that He had swept their sin away. God had redeemed His people. No idol could ever do what God had done.

God told the people to respond with singing and praise. The right response to who God is and what He has done is worship. God alone deserves worship. We were made to worship Him. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 13, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. If you don’t like to sing, are there other ways to worship God?
2. What are some things in your life that pull your attention away from God?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ The beautiful music you will hear in the video as you see the scenes of the countryside and the people from Ghana was written by a missionary kid named Trey Haun. He helped his dad, William Haun, create this video so people could learn more about Ghana. ”

Play the missions video.

SAY “ What was your favorite part of the video? [Allow responses.] Ghana is a beautiful country, isn’t it? Did you learn anything new about Ghana? [Allow responses.] Trey and his dad did a great job creating the music and videoing places in Ghana so we could learn more about this beautiful country. ”

Lead a prayer for the Haun family. Include these prayer requests from the family as you pray: 1) for the family to have courage as they tell others about Jesus, 2) for the Mamprusi people who live in Ghana to hear and respond to the good news about Jesus, 3) the health and safety of the Haun family, and 4) for Trey’s education as he is homeschooled.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 6:4-5 together.

Write the first letters of each word in the key passage on a dry erase board at the front of the room. Practice saying the key passage, as a large group, using the first letters to help. Then form kids into small groups and challenge kids to go around the group with each kid saying a word from the key passage. Encourage them to use the first letters, if they need help.

SAY “ You all have worked really hard to memorize our key passage. Keep practicing at home as you try and treasure God’s Word in your heart. Knowing and believing God’s Word is a way we can keep ourselves from idolatry. ”

Lead kids to sing “The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

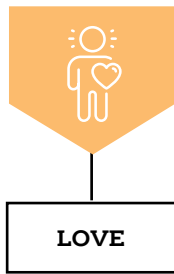
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ Thank You, Lord, for hearing our prayers. Thank You that you sent Jesus to save us from our sin. Keep us free from any form of idolatry and help us to worship You alone. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Isaiah 44. Explain that the book of Isaiah is found in the Old Testament. Remind kids that through the prophet Isaiah, God reminded His people about who He is and why they should worship Him alone. Tell kids that God even used Isaiah to tell about the coming Messiah, Jesus.

Point out the kingdom of Judah (J3) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Tell kids that Isaiah was a prophet to the Kingdom of Judah. Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Judah.)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 44:24.

SAY “ This verse reminds us that God is the Creator of all the earth. He created us in His image. He is also our Redeemer. He is the only One who can provide salvation from sins. God sent Jesus to die in our place for our sin. When we realize these truths, our response should be to worship Him. No one and nothing can ever compare to our God. He is the only One worthy of worship. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ What does it mean that God is the first and the last? ”

Explain that God has always been and will always be. Unlike any other person or thing, God does not get old or get tired. He existed before the earth was formed and He will reign forever and ever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 40:28.)

SAY “ How does knowing who God is help us turn away from idols? ”

Discuss how knowing God directs our minds and hearts to see idols for what they are—worthless. When we compare the Creator God to created things we are reminded how foolish it is to worship anything other than God. Encourage kids to read their Bibles so they can know God more and engage their hearts to love Him more.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 46:10.)

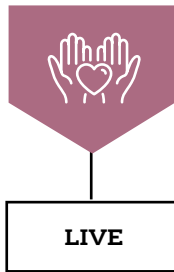
SAY “ What should we do when we recognize idols in our lives? ”

Encourage kids to remember that God is always willing to forgive us when we turn to Him and repent of our sin. Remind kids that God sent His Son, Jesus, to save us while we were still sinners. Lead kids to understand that idolatry is something we can run away from by remembering to run to Jesus.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 John 5:20-21.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: CREATE A RHYTHM



Lead the kids in some rhythm games to create music in the room. Sit in a circle and direct the kids to perform the following actions: snap, snap, stomp, stomp, clap, clap. Continue through several rounds of the rhythm activity changing up the rhythm each time. Consider inviting kids to make up a rhythm for the class.

Continue the rhythm activity, allowing kids the opportunity to say their names during the rest beats. For example: “clap, clap, Bray-den, clap, clap, Han-nah.” Lead the kids to keep the rhythm until all kids have said their name.

SAY “Some people have musical gifts. We saw earlier how Trey Haun was able to create the beautiful music in the video about Ghana. What are some gifts God has given you? [Allow responses.] We can all use our gifts to serve the Lord and lead others to worship Him.”

OPTION 2: FLEE FROM IDOLS



Form two groups of kids. Provide each group with a piece of paper, a marker, and a Bible. Direct each group to open their Bible to 1 John 5:20-21. Read 1 John 5:20-21.

Instruct each group to sit in a circle. Lead groups to pass the paper around the circle while each kid writes a word from the verse on the paper. Continue passing the paper until the entire verse is written out. Then, the kid who wrote the last word must run around the outside of the circle and then sit back down. Instruct the kid to her right to now run around the circle. Continue until every kid from each group has run around the circle. The first group to have all kids run around the circle wins.

SAY “God’s Word commands us to flee from idolatry. By turning to Jesus and knowing Him, we have the understanding to know that worship of anything else but Him is wrong. We can know and love Jesus more by reading His Word.”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God that He is our Creator and Redeemer. As time allows, lead kids to complete “One True God Crossword” on the activity page.