

## **The 10 Commandments: How Life Works**

Week 3- Exodus 20:4-6 Make no image

### **Ice Breaker Question:**

What is a possession you have but kind of wish you didn't? and why?

### **Going Deeper from Sunday**

#### ***Sermon Synopsis***

The 2nd commandment warns us not to create anything (with our hands or even in our imaginations) to represent the invisible God. The first two commandments are related, but different. Unlike the first, which forbids us from letting other 'gods' control us, the second forbids us from controlling or limiting God by making 'an image' to represent Him.

#### ***Key Application***

When we make God as something other than who He has revealed Himself to be, we break the second commandment. We need allow the full revelation of Scripture to form and inform our understanding of God. We need to be cognisant of our tendency to fashion God after the way we want him to be, and shrink him down to something we can control and feel comfortable with. Because when we do, we aren't worshipping God at all.

Share any reflections and/or questions that may have arisen from the sermon on Sunday?

### **Going Deeper**

What is the difference between the first commandment and second?  
(Leader's Note: The Puritan preacher Thomas Watson said, "In the first commandment worshipping a false god is forbidden...(in the) second commandment, worshipping the true God in a false manner is forbidden." Why is worshipping God in truth so important?)

The Bible describes sin as having a domino effect. Why might this sin affect future generations (vv. 5-6)?

While Moses was on Mount Sinai receiving the law of God, events at the foot of the mountain took a shocking turn. Read Exodus 32:1-8, 15-25.

What apparently causes the Israelites to yearn for new gods (32:1)?

When have you experienced yearnings similar to those of the Israelites in 32:1?

What do you think was going through Aaron's mind when he decided to make an idol for the people of Israel? How did Aaron's action become a mixture of idolatry and the worship of God? (Note who is to be worshipped in v.5)

What does the false worship of the Israelites ultimately lead to? How do you picture the scene in the camp (6-7, 18-19, 25)? Why do you think this happened?

Both God and Moses reacted in anger to the people's idolatry. Why is idolatry such a grievous sin? J.I. Packer says in making a golden calf, they made God much less than he is? They made him into the image of a bull, to show his power, but in doing so, omitted his holiness, which resulted in the corrupted worship?

In what ways are we tempted to reduce God to images (mental or physical) that we can fully grasp?

How do you deal with the times of mystery, when you just don't understand what God is doing in your life? Do you ever find it hard to be content to worship a God that is far beyond our comprehension?

*Close your time as a group together by praying for one another.*

(Note, some questions are taken from Rob Suggs IV guide: The 10 Commandments)