Life team Notes – Week of 10/6 – What do you value?

* What is your favorite childhood memory? Why?
* If you could do over any even in your childhood what would it be? Why?

**Objective:** To see God’s goodness in the past, leave behind any idols we may be putting our faith in and trust God’s goodness even when circumstances seem hopeless.

* Have you ever questioned God? What about?
* What was the most difficult season of your life? Why?

**When Habakkuk questioned God about evil and injustice one of God’s response was:** Habakkuk 2:4

* What do you think it means for Habakkuk and his people to “live by faith?”

**Describe a time in your life when the circumstances seemed hopeless but you “lived by faith.”**

* How did you see God’s goodness revealed through these circumstances?
* How did it affect your relationship with God? Your relationship with others?

**God went on to say: Habakkuk 2:18-20**

* The word idol here is used. What do you think idol means?
* Many culture still worship actual idols, what does idol mean for us?

**Definition - i•dol:** an image or other material object representing a deity other than God; a false conception or notion; fallacy.

**An idol for a Christian can be anything that we place as primary importance in our life over God - anything that either disproportionately consumes your thoughts, actions or resources, or that takes your focus off of God.**

* Many of the people in Habakkuk were trusting idols to rescue them. What kind of ”idols” do many people look to for their rescue today?

Today idolatry remains a powerful tool that the devil uses to turn us away from God. However, now it has taken many different forms - **Modern day idols?**

1. People – friends, family, boy/girlfriend, spouse, kids, “celebrities”
2. Church / Ministry
3. Possessions / materialism
4. Recognition
5. Self / pride / ego / selfish ambitions
6. Social media
7. Work
8. Hobbies and athletics -
9. Personal rights and freedoms –
10. Your challenges

**All idolatry has at its core three lusts:**

1 John 2:16

1. **Physical cravings - Lust of the flesh**
2. **Visual cravings - Lust of the eyes**
3. **Positional Cravings - Pride of Life**
* Describe areas in your life where you are tempted to trust in “idols” rather than God? How do the three lusts about come into play in our temptations?

**What do these verses speak to us about concerning our “idols”?**

Exodus 20:3, Colossians 3:1-2, Matthew 6:20-22, 24, John 18:36, Colossians 3:5, James 1:8, James 3:14-16, 1 Tim 6:10, Galatians 5:19-21, Matthew 22:27

* How will you “live by faith” in those areas of your life? How can our group help you?

**Pray together in your own words and ask God for the following:**

* Eyes to see His goodness in every area of your life
* Wisdom to identify and reject any “idols” you may be putting your trust in today
* Strength to “live by faith” and trust Him even when things look hopeless.

**TAKE HOME**

Deuteronomy 16:21-17:20

What was Israel commanded not to set up? (16:21-22) What kind of sacrifice is detestable to the Lord? (17:1) What was to be done if someone was suspected of worshiping other gods? (17:2-4) How was the punishment for idol worship to be handled? (17:5) What implications do these verses have for our attitude toward justice and fairness?

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Why did Paul refer to Israel's history? (10:1) How do the Israelites serve as examples to us? (10:1-6) Why did God record the experiences of the Israelites? (10:6, 11) Why is it important that all the temptations Christians face are common to everyone? (10:13) How is God faithful? (10:13) What have you learned about God from this history of Israel? What have you learned about yourself from this history of Israel?

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