Sermon Discussion Guide
Turn To God From Idols: James Junior
Nov 8, 2026

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*

- Growing up, what was your favorite toy to play with? Do you have a favorite memory with it?

Book - Scripture: *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying***: Acts 17:16–34, 1 Thess 1:8-10,

- What stands out to you from how Paul approaches the people of Athens in Acts 17:16-34? (*How long was he there? Who did he talk to? How did he talk to them?*)
- How did Paul contextualize the Gospel for the Athenians?
- In v.16 it says, “he was deeply troubled by all the idols he saw everywhere in the city”.
    - As a group look up some of the Greek gods and idols that the Athenian people may have been worshipping. Contrast these to the “living and true God”.
- In Thess 1:8-10, we see the “after” of people who turn from idols to the living God.
    - Can you share a story of where you–or someone you know–surrendered an idol to God?
    - How were you–or they–different after?

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*

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- James shared common desires that can become idols in our lives (ex: career, security, significance, belonging, control, and comfort).
    - What other modern day idols do you see in our culture?
    - What are the underlying fears that each of these potential idols are trying to pacify?

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*

- Reread Acts 17:29-30
    - James described that an idol is a good thing that we are asking to do God's job.
        - Is there an idol we are asking to do God's job in our lives right now?
        - Is there a current fear that you need God's help with?
    - For the people of Athens, tearing an idol in their lives meant the physical tearing down of gold or stone statues.
        - Is there a tangible way you can "tear down" an idol in your life?

Time of Prayer

What truth of God's character do you need to know in a fresh way to still a current fear in your life? (You can read and meditate on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)
Pray these true characters of God over one another