LIFE GROUP
Participant Guide

PT 2

EXODUS

NAME _____

wentzville
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 EARLY BATTLES | WEEK 7

6 TEN COMMANDMENTS PART ONE | WEEK 8

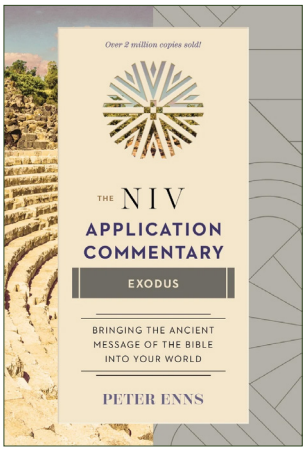
9 TEN COMMANDMENTS PART TWO | WEEK 9

13 THE TABERNACLE | WEEK 10

17 THE GOLDEN CALF | WEEK 11

20 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION | WEEK 12

COMMENTARY FOR THIS EXODUS STUDY



LETTER FROM KEITH

Hey WCC Family!

I'm so glad you're joining us for Part 2 of our Exodus series, "No Other gods"! Life Groups give us a place to study God's Word, build friendships, ask honest questions, and encourage each other as we learn to follow Jesus. I'm thankful you're making room for that in your life.

As we continue through Exodus, we'll explore the Ten Commandments, the Tabernacle, and the Golden Calf. That might sound like an unusual combination of rules, construction plans, and a seriously questionable worship decision...but these passages have a lot to teach us about who God is and what it means to put Him first.

Through the Ten Commandments, we'll see how God calls His rescued people to live in relationship with Him and with one another. In the Tabernacle, we'll discover the beautiful truth that God desires to dwell among His people. And through the Golden Calf, we'll see how quickly our hearts can wander...even after we've experienced God's faithfulness.

If we're honest, we can see ourselves in Israel's story. We want to trust God, but waiting is hard. We want to follow Him, but we're tempted to do things our own way. These chapters will challenge us, but they'll also remind us how much we need God's mercy and grace.

I'm excited to see how God uses these conversations to deepen our faith and strengthen our relationships. Thanks for being part of the journey of putting God First!

Blessings,
Keith Comp
Senior Minister

WEEK 7 | EARLY BATTLES [EXODUS 17: 8-18]

START TALKING (OPENING QUESTIONS)

1. **Are you someone who has a hard time asking for help?**

2. **Share a moment when you had to rely on someone else because you couldn't do it on your own.**

START THINKING (DIGGING INTO THE TEXT)

1. **Read Exodus 17:8-12. During this attack, what is swaying the momentum of the battle and how do we see Moses aided by others?**

2. **Read Exodus 17:13-16. Why do you think God chose the raising of the staff as the means for determining victory in the Israelite's first battle?**

   Commentary from Commentaries: The Hebrew word for banner (nēs) was most often used in military contexts, where the nēs is a signal pole around which an army or army unit can rally, regroup, or return for instructions. (Stuart)

3. **We see God defeat the Amalekites militarily in chapter 17. Read Exodus 18:1-12 and answer this question: How is the Midianite faith defeated in this story?**

4. **After Jethro's confession, he immediately identifies a problem within the Israelite community. Read Exodus 18:13-27 and discuss what the problem is as well as the solution that Jethro provides.**

5. **What are some similar themes we see in our two stories today? Discuss them as a group.**

START SHARING (APPLYING THE TEXT)

1. **What is the end result of a Christian who refuses help? What happens if someone chooses to be a lone ranger in their faith?**

2. **Share a moment in your life when God Himself provided help in the midst a battle.**

3. **Share a moment in your life when God sent someone else to aid you in the midst of a battle.**

START DOING (LIVING OUT THE TEXT)

1. **Is there an area of your life where you need help? Share that need with the group and then brainstorm ways that your group can provide assistance.**

START PRAYING (PRAYING IN LIGHT OF THE TEXT)

1. **LINC (Love in the Name of Christ) - LINC's mission is to provide support and direction for disadvantaged families and individuals in the community, helping them to set goals and objectives that will empower them to become productive citizens within the community.**

WEEK 8 | TEN COMMANDMENTS PART ONE [EXODUS 19 & 20]

START TALKING

1. **What are some traits of healthy relationship dynamics?**

2. **Flip the question: What are some traits of unhealthy relationship dynamics?**

START THINKING

1. **Within our culture, the Ten Commandments are some of the most recognized passages of Scripture. The first four commandments speak into our relationship with God. Read Exodus 20:1-2. Why do you think God starts this way before giving the commandments?**

2. **Read the first commandment in Exodus 20:3 and then read Matthew 22:37. What do these verses teach us about our relationship dynamic with God? How does the first commandment relate to verse two?**

3. **As an extension of the first commandment, the second commandment prohibits God's people from making idols. Read Exodus 20:4-6. Within these verses, what are the reasons given for why God hates idolatry?**

4. **Read the third commandment found in Exodus 20:7. What does this verse teach us about what our relationship with God should look like? What does it look like for a Christian to live this commandment out?**

   Commentary from Commentaries: The third commandment is directed not toward Yahweh's protection, but toward Israel's. Yahweh's name…must be honored, blessed, praised, celebrated, invoked, pronounced, and so shared. To treat Yahweh's name with disrespect is to treat His gift lightly, to undermine His power, to scorn His presence, and to misrepresent to the family of humankind His very nature as "The One Who Always Is." Exodus Durham

5. **Next week, we will be looking at commandments five through ten that speak into our relationship with one another. The fourth commandment is a bridge that speaks both into our relationship with God and our relationship with others. Read Exodus 20:8-11 and Leviticus 23:3. What does the fourth commandment have to do with our relationship with God? What do we communicate when we don't practice Sabbath?**

START SHARING

1. **Talking about the relationship dynamic between God and ourselves, what was something you learned about God's character in our study today?**

2. **As a group, go through each of the four commandments and discuss what it would look like for a modern Christian to miss the mark.**

3. **Which commandment do you find yourself struggling with? Why is following that command difficult for you? What would greater obedience look like regarding that commandment?**

(Continued on next page)

WEEK 8 CONTINUED | THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PART ONE

START DOING

1. **Over the next two weeks, we would love for your group to work on memorizing Exodus 20:1-17. Memorizing Scripture is not just for children. It's a great way for adults to meditate on God's Word. We encourage you to set aside ten minutes every day for the next fourteen days to review the verses, taking it in chunks. For exploring different methods of memorization, you can use some of the methods on the next page.**

START PRAYING

1. **Pioneer Bible Translators - Nathan and Amy Tuley: Pioneer Bible Translators exist to disciple the Bibleless, mobilizing God's people to provide enduring access to God's Word. Their vision is to see transformed lives through God's Word in every language. Nathan and Amy work with all of PBT through the website, IT, and editing to share the gospel with the world.**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION TECHNIQUES

WRITE IT:

There is something to be said about writing out a verse. Repeat it as you write it. The physical process of putting pen/pencil to paper helps your brain to hold onto the information. Write it multiple times. I love looking back over journals of verses/passages/chapters I have committed to memory over the years. It also helps as a refresher on those verses.

CHUNKING:

Break the verse into smaller chunks and repeat it in small chunks until you have it memorized, then add another chunk. Continue with this until the whole verse is memorized.

BIBLE MEMORY: VERSE LOCKER APP

This app will help you memorize by removing a few of each verse at a time.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION TECHNIQUES CONTINUED

QUOTE BOOK FOR EXODUS 20:1-17

A quote book helps you memorize Scripture by giving you a small hint: the first letter of every word! Capitalization and punctuation remain in place to help you follow the passage.

Start by reading a verse aloud from your Bible a few times. Then use the letters in your quote book to say each word from memory. If you get stuck, check your Bible and try again. As you grow more confident, practice saying the verse without looking at the letters.

Learn a little at a time, review what you've already learned, and practice with a friend or your Life Group. As you memorize Exodus 20:1–17, take time to talk about what it teaches us about God and how He calls us to live.

1 A G s a t w:
2 "I a t L y G, w b y o o E, o o t l o s.
3 "Y s h n o g b m.
4 "Y s n m f y a i i t f o a i h a o i t w b.
5 Y s n b d t t o w t: f I, t L y G, a a j G, p t c f t s o t p t t t a f g o t w h m,
6 b s l t a t g o t w l m a k m c.
7 "Y s n m t n o t L y G, f t L w n h a g w m h n.
8 "R t S d b k i h.
9 S d y s l a d a y w,
10 b t s d i a s t t L y G. O i y s n d a w, n y, n y s o d, n y m o f s, n y a, n a f r i y t.
11 F i s d t L m t h a t e, t s, a a t i i t, b h r o t s d. T t L b e S d a m i h.
12 "H y f a y m, s t y m l l i t l t L y G i g y.
13 "Y s n m.
14 "Y s n c a.
15 "Y s n s.
16 "Y s n g f t a y n.
17 "Y s n c y n h. Y s n c y n w, o h m o f s, h o r d, o a t b t y n."

SATURATION OR REPETITION:

Saturate your life with the verse. Write it on post-its and index cards. Post it around where you will constantly see it and be reminded to recite it regularly. Post it on your mirrors or windows, or write it on them with a dry erase marker. Post it in your car. Post it on your computer. Make an image via YouVersion (or whatever app you want) and save it as the home screen on your phone. Saturate your life with the verse so you repeat it constantly.

WEEK 9 | TEN COMMANDMENTS PART TWO [EXODUS 20]

COMMANDMENT FOUR

1. **READ: Exodus 20:8-11, Leviticus 23:3, Mark 2:23-28**

2. **Peter Scazerro, "Biblical Sabbath is a 24-hour block of time in which we stop work, enjoy rest, practice delight, and contemplate God."**

3. **Eugene Peterson, "Sabbath is a day to play and pray."**

4. **Scenario: Craig is struggling with a lack of margin. He works long hours during the week and spends his weekends catching up on house projects, errands, yard work, and kids' activities. While Craig would consider himself a Christian, he often finds himself neglecting church on Sunday and friendships within the church because he's just too busy. Recently, Craig has found himself starting the work week feeling tired, drained, and lonely. What would you say to Craig?**

COMMANDMENT FIVE

1. **READ: Exodus 20:12, Ezekiel 20:18-19, Acts 5:29**

2. **Scenario: Adaline drives herself to youth group on Wednesdays and loves attending even though her parents refuse to step into a church. They've often mentioned to her how pointless religion is, saying, "You should just stay home." Recently in her reading of Exodus, Adaline found herself bothered by Exodus 20:12. Is she not honoring her father and mother when she attends youth group? Does this fifth commandment mean that she needs to do what her parents say no matter what? If not, then what does this fifth commandment mean? What would you say to Adaline?**

WEEK 9 CONTINUED | THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PART TWO

COMMANDMENT SIX

1. **READ: Exodus 20:13, Matthew 5:21-26**

2. **Commentary from Commentaries: The Hebrew word translated "murder" in the NIV is a common one in the Old Testament. It is a restricted term, generally referring to the killing of someone who is not an enemy of the people. In other words, it is not used in the context of war or just punishment for a crime.-Enns**

3. **Scenario: Jim has a boss that has repeatedly gotten under his skin. His employer has embarrassed him, criticized him publicly, and seems to intentionally push his buttons. There have been moments where Jim has almost come to blows with his boss but always pulls back because he doesn't want to lose his job. Instead, Jim harbors bitterness internally and uses every opportunity to talk bad about the employer behind his back. What would you say to Jim?**

COMMANDMENT SEVEN

1. **READ: Exodus 20:14, Matthew 5:27-30, 1 Peter 5:8**

2. **Scenario: Jennifer has a neighbor named Michael she genuinely enjoys talking to. At first, the conversations felt casual, but slowly over time their talks became more personal and intimate. Jennifer finds herself sharing things with Michael she hasn't even shared with her husband. She looks forward to Michael's daily texts but has chosen to hide them from her husband because of fear over how he would respond. No physical boundary line has been crossed, but recently Jennifer has found herself dreaming of what life would be like if she lived with Michael. What would you say to Jennifer?**

COMMANDMENT EIGHT

1. **READ: Exodus 20:15, Leviticus 19:11, Ephesians 4:28**

(Continued on next page)

WEEK 9 CONTINUED | THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PART TWO

2. **Scenario: Marcus has been working for the same company for several years. He really enjoys his job: his manager provides little oversight, which lets him browse the internet during work hours. His employer gives him a heavy-duty laptop that he takes home for online gaming. The office is stocked with supplies, so he never runs out of printer paper at home. When a coworker notices, Marcus says, "Honestly, they don't pay me enough anyway. With everything I've done for this company, they owe me. It's not like I'm stealing money from someone's wallet." What would you say to Marcus?**

COMMANDMENT NINE

1. **READ: Exodus 20:16, Proverbs 12:17, Proverbs 19:5, Matthew 19:18**

2. **Commentary from Commentaries: This command refers not to lying in general, but to bearing false testimony in court. -Stamm and Andrew**

3. **Commentary from Commentaries: Throughout the Hebrew Bible, Yahweh stands up for the most vulnerable, so He cares deeply about Israel rising above the status quo of corruption and treachery common in most cultures' justice systems. Bearing false witness often leads to violence against the wrongly accused, while also contributing to the deterioration of a community. The ninth command is built upon a deeper value that everyone matters and deserves equal treatment. -Tim Mackie**

4. **Sarah is a 32-year-old woman who works at a local business. One afternoon, she witnesses a heated argument between her coworker, Megan, and their supervisor. A few minutes later, the supervisor fires Megan. Megan later files a lawsuit claiming that she was fired because of discrimination. Sarah is subpoenaed to testify because she was the only other employee who witnessed the argument. Sarah knows that Megan was not discriminated against because the argument was about Megan repeatedly ignoring her supervisor's instructions. But Megan is Sarah's close friend, and Megan tells her: "If you tell them exactly what happened, I'm going to lose everything. You don't have to lie. Just leave out the part where I ignored his instructions and tell them that he was yelling at me." What would you say to Sarah?**

WEEK 9 CONTINUED | THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PART TWO

COMMANDMENT TEN

1. **READ: Exodus 2:17, Luke 12:15, 1 Timothy 6:6-10**

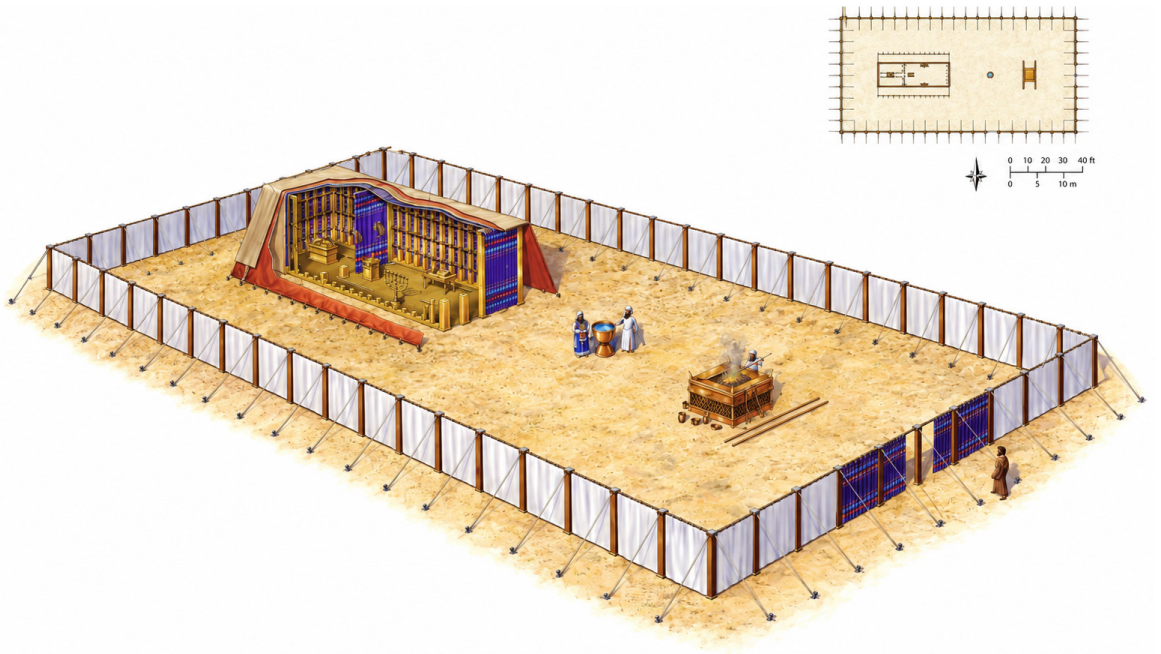
2. **Scenario: Betty and her husband have been working hard to pay off debt and save for a better house. One Sunday, Betty finds out that another couple in their Life Group just bought a beautiful new home. Over the next few weeks, Betty becomes increasingly consumed by their friend's new house. She notices their new furniture, their backyard, and even the vacations they take. She starts thinking, "They don't deserve all of that. We've worked just as hard as they have." Eventually, Betty begins avoiding conversations with the couple because hearing about their new life makes her jealous. When their life group leader asks Betty what's wrong, she says, "I'm not jealous. I just think it's ridiculous how much they spend." What would you say to Betty?**

START DOING

1. **Continue working on memorizing Exodus 20:1-17 this week. Feel free to review the verses as a life group! The goal is to memorize the passage before next week's discussion. Consider a reward or a small party for your life group next week to celebrate memorizing these verses!**

START PRAYING

1. **High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center: High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center's goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God's wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus.**



THE COURTYARD

1. **Read Exodus 27:9-19. You can see the courtyard in the picture above with the white curtains around it. All Israelites in a state of ritual purity could enter the courtyard. What do the courtyard and fenced curtains teach us about entering into God's presence? What does the courtyard teach us about God's desire for His people?**

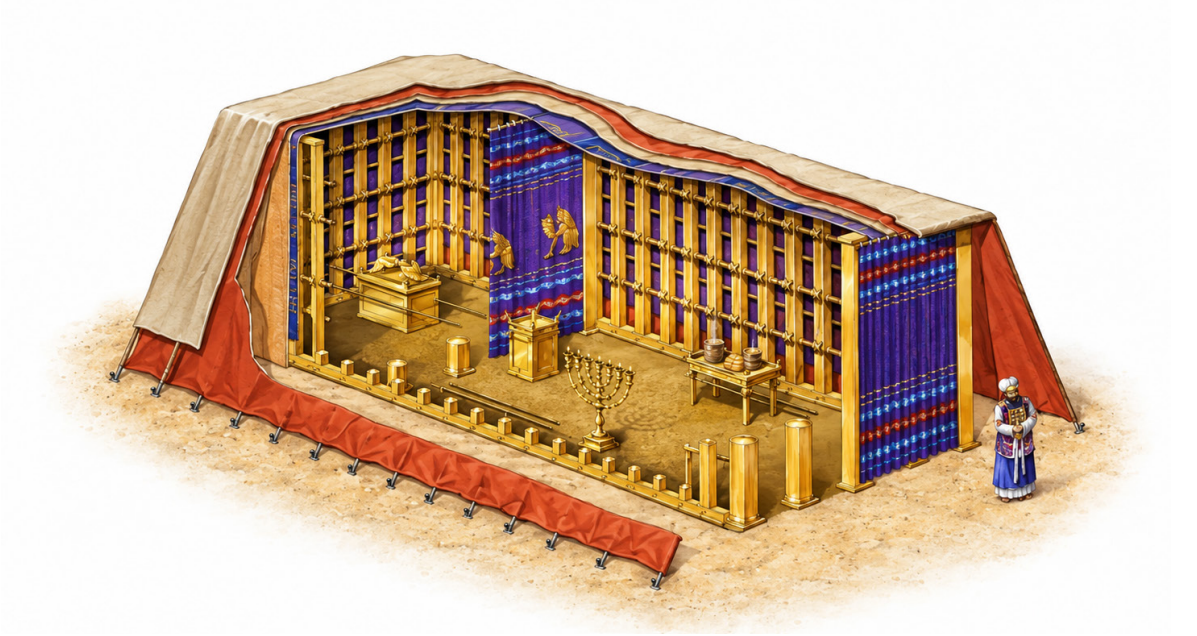
WEEK 10 CONTINUED | THE TABERNACLE

THE BRONZE ALTER

1. **You can see the bronze altar (pictured on the previous page) as the far-right bronze cube where sacrifices are made. Read Exodus 27:1-8 and 28:38-42. The Israelites performed daily sacrifices at the bronze altar as atonement and payment for their sins. Only this blood sacrifice could accomplish atonement for sin. What does this bronze altar teach us about God's holiness? How does the bronze altar point forward to Jesus?**

THE BRONZE BASIN

1. **On the previous page, notice two men standing around a basin in the middle of the courtyard. Read Exodus 30:17-21. Based on these verses, what was the purpose of this basin and who was using it?**



(Continued on next page)

WEEK 10 CONTINUED | THE TABERNACLE

THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND

1. **As you enter the tabernacle tent, you see the golden lampstand on the left. Read Exodus 25:31-40 and 27:20-21. This lampstand lit the inside of the tent. Why do you think it was important to God that the lamp always stay lit throughout the night?**

THE TABLE OF THE BREAD OF PRESENCE

1. **As you enter into the tabernacle tent, on the right, you see a table with bread and pots on top of it. Read Exodus 25:23-30 and Leviticus 24:5-9. What do these elements teach us about God? How does the table of the bread of presence point forward to communion?**

THE ALTER OF INCENSE

1. **As you enter the tabernacle tent, the altar of incense stands straight ahead. Read Exodus 30:1-10, Psalm 141:2, and Revelation 5:8. In these three passages, what is incense often compared to? Why do you think God deemed it necessary to have an altar of incense within the tabernacle?**

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT

1. **Within the Holy of Holies (inner sanctum of the tabernacle tent) was the Ark of the Covenant. Read Exodus 25:10-22. The Ark of the Covenant was essential to the life of the Israelite people. Once a year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest would enter into the Holy of Holies to make blood sacrifices for the nation of Israel on the mercy seat. The mercy seat (lid of the ark) was considered God's throne and where His holy presence**

was felt most. In what ways does Jesus connect to the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat?

THE VEIL

1. **A veiled curtain separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Read Exodus 26:31-33, Leviticus 16:2, and Hebrews 10:19-22. The barrier between these two rooms was essential because it protected the priests from God's holiness. The tragedy of the veil is that it demonstrates the barrier we experience from God because of our sin. Read Matthew 27:50-51 and Hebrews 10:19**

CONCLUDING QUESTION

1. **Our group has covered a lot of passages today. What is one thing you learned about God or yourself through today's study?**

START PRAYING

1. **Tim and Amy Maxson serve at Fellowship Dubai Church, where Tim focuses on relational discipleship in a church community representing more than 120 nations. With a passion for seeing disciples make disciples, the Maxsons seek to equip believers to follow Jesus faithfully and help others do the same. Their vision is to see healthy, multiplying communities of faith begin in Dubai and spread throughout the region and beyond. big.life/team/tim-maxson/**

WEEK 11 | THE GOLDEN CALF [EXODUS 32]

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. **If you had to make a top five list of the idols worshiped in our country, what would make your list, and why?**

2. **What is the difference between enjoying something and making that thing an idol?**

3. **Before we get into our story today, think back to everything we've learned so far through Exodus. God demonstrated His superiority over the Egyptian gods through the plagues. God provided food in the wilderness. God expressed His desire to be worshiped and worshiped alone in the Ten Commandments. Throughout Exodus, God continually showed that He alone was worthy of worship from the Israelites. With that in mind, as a group, divide out Exodus 32 and read it together.**

4. **What reasons did the Israelites give for making the golden calf?**

5. **What do we learn about God in this chapter? What did we learn about the Israelites?**

STRONGHOLD SHARING EXERCISE

Like the Israelites, we can forget God and place our hope in idols rather than Him. Break into groups of men and women, review the list on the next two pages and circle three idols you struggle with most. Share them with your group, read the corresponding verses of truth, and pray for one another. The goal is to identify our idols and refocus our hearts on the one true God.

WEEK 11 CONTINUED | THE GOLDEN CALF

STRONGHOLD SHARING EXERCISE

COMFORT **Examples**: avoiding inconvenience, excessive entertainment, laziness, always choosing the easiest option, unwillingness to sacrifice **Lie**: My life should be comfortable and I shouldn't have to suffer.	**SURRENDER** Luke 9:23-24 Romans 12:1-2 Galatians 2:20
MONEY & MATERIALISM **Examples**: obsession with income, shopping, possessions, financial status, always wanting more, comparing what we have with others **Lie**: If I just had more, I would finally be secure and satisfied.	**CONTENTMENT** Matthew 6:19-21 1 Timothy 6:6-10 Hebrews 13:5
SUCCESS & STATUS **Examples**: career advancement, accomplishments, titles, reputation, winning, being impressive, needing to be seen as successful **Lie**: My worth comes from what I accomplish and how others see me.	**IDENTITY IN CHRIST** Galatians 2:20 Ephesians 2:10 Philippians 3:7-9
APPROVAL **Examples**: people-pleasing, fear of disappointing others, social media validation, needing compliments, changing convictions to fit in **Lie**: I am only valuable if other people approve of me.	**APPROVAL OF GOD** Proverbs 29:25 John 12:42-43 Galatians 1:10
CONTROL **Examples**: anxiety about the future, micromanaging, difficulty trusting others, anger when plans change, refusing to surrender outcomes to God **Lie**: Everything will be okay if I can just stay in control.	**TRUST IN GOD** Proverbs 3:5-6 Matthew 6:25-34 1 Peter 5:6-7
POLITICS & POWER **Examples**: political outrage, finding identity in a party, constantly consuming political news, treating political victories as ultimate victories, viewing opponents as enemies **Lie**: Our hope depends on getting the right people in power.	**CHRIST'S KINGDOM** John 18:36-37 Philippians 3:20 Colossians 1:13-14
PLEASURE **Examples**: entertainment, gaming, food, vacations, hobbies, constantly seeking the next enjoyable experience **Lie**: The purpose of life is to feel good and enjoy myself.	**DELIGHT IN GOD** Psalm 16:11 Psalm 37:4 1 Timothy 6:17

(Continued on next page)

WEEK 11 CONTINUED | THE GOLDEN CALF

STRONGHOLD SHARING EXERCISE

SEXUAL DESIRE **Examples**: pornography, lust, sexual fantasy, casual sex, emotional affairs, treating sexual fulfillment as a right **Lie**: I need to satisfy my sexual desires in order to be fulfilled.	**HOLINESS** 1 Corinthians 6:18-20 Galatians 5:16-17 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
SELF **Examples**: selfishness, self-centeredness, demanding my rights, always putting my needs first, resentment when others don't serve me **Lie**: My life is ultimately about me.	**SELF-DENIAL** Luke 9:23-25 Galatians 2:20 Philippians 2:3-4
FAMILY **Examples**: making children the center of life, placing spouse above God, living vicariously through children, sacrificing obedience to God for family happiness **Lie**: My family comes before everything else.	**GOD FIRST** Deuteronomy 6:4-7 Matthew 10:37-39 Matthew 22:37-38
WORK & PRODUCTIVITY **Examples**: inability to rest, constant busyness, workaholism, finding identity in a career, feeling guilty when not accomplishing something **Lie**: My value comes from how productive I am.	**REST & TRUST** Exodus 20:8-10 Psalm 127:1-2 Mark 2:27-28

START PRAYING

1. **Central Bible University: The goal of Central Bible University is to raise up servant leaders for the church and to do so as affordably as possible. This week, our students are competing at Bible Bowl, which CBU is hosting. Please be praying for them!**

WEEK 12 | CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Your group has studied hard this semester! Now that we are past Thanksgiving, we encourage your group, for the final week, to schedule a Christmas dinner and celebration. Focus on fellowship and enjoy each other's presence as we celebrate the coming Savior who rescues us from spiritual slavery.