

## **Shiny Gods**

### **Lesson 1: Naming Our Idols**

#### **BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:**

**Psalm 135:15-17** – These verses illustrate verse 5. In contrast to Israel’s sovereign God, the idols of the nations are powerless (Ps. 115:4-8).

**Exodus 20:1-6** – God’s commands to Israel at Sinai

**Isaiah 44:12-20** – The foolishness of worshiping worthless/powerless idols

#### **2012 Study –**

2/3 of Americans live paycheck to paycheck (“Living Paycheck to Paycheck,”

Huffington Post)

Cause may not be lack of money, but instead treating luxuries as essentials

Slaughter refers to perceived luxuries as “shiny gods.”

*Ask: How might the findings of this study be true in our own lives? Think about your own life and ask if there are any shiny gods in your life*

Purpose of this study is to help us identify our own shiny distractions and encourages us to put God first in all aspects of life.

#### **VIDEO PRESENTATION:**

Session 1: Naming Our Idols (10:33) AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION OF KEY INSIGHTS (own then from video):**

- An idol is anything or anyone that receives the primary focus of our energy or resources, which should first belong to God. Aaron and the golden calf (Ex. 32:1-6)
- God’s beautiful gifts to us can become idols when we assign to them a wrong priority. Even our virtues can become vices-or idols-if they are not directed toward Jesus.
  - *Divided Heart* – separating the primary focus of our energies and resources from God
- The Bible uses the word covenant regarding a bond between people in which each party places the other person’s priorities above his or her own. This word applies to our relationship with God.
- Our idolatry will negatively affect our children. They adopt our actions rather than our stated beliefs
- In our idolatry we view all of our interests by how well they serve us making ourselves the center of our universe.