

# Identifying Idols

The Israelites were giving their devotion to images of stone or metal, which were meant to replace God and offer them success, fertility, or well-being. They put their trust in these images that were supposed to represent gods that had power over their lives. Romans 1:18–25 talks of how knowledge of God is distorted into worship of the creation rather than the Creator.

As you answer the following questions, consider this definition of an idol:

**Idol:** anyone or anything that receives your affection and attention above God.

- What comes to mind when you think of idolatry?
- What do Ephesians 5:5 and 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 tell us about idolaters?
- What interesting connection regarding idolatry is made in Colossians 3:5–7?
- Read Luke 18:18–24. In light of Colossians 3:5, what was the idol that this outwardly upright man was serving above God?
- Is it possible to make an idol in your mind and give your affection and attention to it without actually carving a piece of wood (Ezekiel 14:3–6)?

The Israelites did not always trust God; they sometimes put their trust in false gods that had no real power to satisfy their demands. They gave their affection and attention to idols, and they failed to trust and serve God as foremost in their lives.

Stop and truly examine your heart in light of this lesson on idolatry. The following statements can help you identify those things in your life that may be replacing God:

- When I need to be comforted, I seek \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I don't get \_\_\_\_\_, I get angry or impatient.
- I'm willing to sin in order to get \_\_\_\_\_.
- I spend most of my energy and time \_\_\_\_\_.

The Israelites were called to smash the idols of the pagans so they would not be a snare to them. What hope do you have of destroying these idols you have identified in your own heart?