

Bible Study Handout: F.A.L.S.E. G.O.D.S.

🚫 F.A.L.S.E. G.O.D.S. 🚫

Not every idol is carved from stone. Some are carved into our habits, emotions, and mindsets.

God told Israel, “You shall have no other gods before Me.” (Exodus 20:3)

But today’s false gods don’t always have names like Baal or Molech. Sometimes they’re much closer to home:

Fear

Anger

Laziness

Slothfulness

Envoy

Greed

Overindulgence

Despair

Sin / Stupidity

These are the idols we bow to when we ignore God’s voice, trust our feelings more than our faith, or let our emotions lead instead of the Spirit. The false gods we serve can eclipse our destiny unless we turn away from them.

Big Idea

False gods aren’t just ancient idols. They still show up today in our habits, emotions, priorities, and compromises. If we’re not discerning, we can serve them without realizing we’ve stepped off the path God ordained for us.

Opening: Setting the Foundation

Exodus 20:3 - “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Recognizing Modern False Gods

- In Nazi Germany, nationalism demanded more loyalty than Christ.
- Today, greed is normalized in exploitative systems.

- Fear drives media; image drives social media; comfort resists sacrifice.
- Personally, people-pleasing, despair, and overindulgence often take God's place.

Biblical Examples: Destiny Derailed by False Gods

1. Saul - 1 Samuel 15:1-24

- Disobeyed direct command to destroy Amalekites (v.3).
- Driven by fear, people-pleasing, pride, and comfort (v.24).
- Questions: What drove him to compromise? How do we do the same today?

2. Solomon - 1 Kings 11:1-11

- Overconfidence in judgment.
- Married foreign women despite God's Word (Dt. 7:1-4, Dt. 17:17).
- Built altars to false gods (1 Kgs 11:4-8).
- Questions: How do our blessings become blind spots?

3. Rich Young Ruler - Mark 10:17-27

- What did Jesus ask him to give up? What held him back?

4. Demas - 2 Timothy 4:10

- What did Demas trade for comfort or culture?

Acronym: F.A.L.S.E. G.O.D.S.

F - Fear (2 Tim. 1:7; 1 John 4:18)

A - Anger (James 1:20; Eph. 4:26-27)

L - Laziness (Prov. 6:6-11; Col. 3:23)

S - Slothfulness (Rom. 12:11; Heb. 6:12)

E - Envy (Prov. 14:30; James 3:16)

G - Greed (Luke 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:10)

O - Overindulgence (Prov. 23:20-21; Phil. 3:19)

D - Despair (Ps. 42:5; Rom. 15:13)

S - Sin/Stupidity (Prov. 14:12; Hosea 4:6)

Closing Reflection

Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before Me."

Matthew 22:37 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart..."

Group Discussion Questions

- Which of these false gods spoke to you today?
- What idol needs to be dethroned?
- What step of obedience is God asking of you?

Closing Prayer

Father, we return to You as our first love.

Dethrone every false god -fear, greed, laziness, pride, comfort, envy.

We surrender our hearts again to You.

Be enthroned as King, and rule in every area of our lives.

In Jesus' name, Amen.