



UNIT 13 | SESSION 5

## WE ARE TO WORSHIP GOD ALONE

ISAIAH 44

**KEY PASSAGE:**

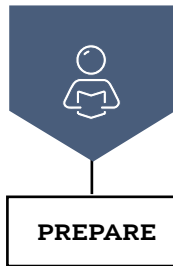
Deuteronomy 6:4-5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves.



## PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



## LEADER Bible Study

Many agree that sin is often, if not always, contrived from selfish ambitions. We can see how our actions, thoughts, and words that disregard God's instructions for our lives develop from our desire for more, better, or different than what we currently have. Our sin is a statement that we believe that our ways are better than God's and that we ultimately know better than Him.

The implications of our selfishness in sin don't stop there. They don't only disregard God's instruction, God's authority, and God's design for us. They don't only seek our own pleasure and comfort. Our sinful actions, thoughts, and words also tell a story to those around us of what we believe is most important and where we find direction for our lives.

Sin is always problematic and self-serving, but it also has an impact on others far greater than our circumstances often reflect.

When we build or follow an idol (something we put in the place of God), we are actually replacing the Creator with created things. Idolatry is not a benefit to anyone. The pursuit of idols is futile because they hold no real power.

Isaiah 44:9 reads, "All who make idols are nothing, and what they treasure benefits no one. Their witnesses do not see or know

anything, so they will be put to shame."

Our love of things other than God testifies to the world around us that God is not good enough, that He does not satisfy, and that He won't do what He says He will do. For an ambassador of Christ, this is not the message the dying world should hear from us.

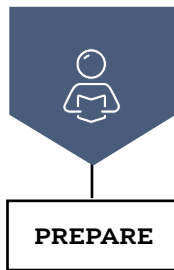
The next time you think that your love of something other than God is just a personal problem, reconsider how it may very well be proclaiming to those around you a gospel of hopelessness. And remember that God does satisfy, He is enough, and He always does what He says He will do.

### OLD TESTAMENT IDOLS

**Exodus 32:** golden calf

**2 Kings 18:** bronze serpent

**1 Kings 12:** gold calves



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



### WELCOME

#### Activity Page

- ☐ "Worship God Alone" activity page

#### Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ bowl



### LEARN

#### Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

#### Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

#### Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

#### Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "We Are to Worship God Alone" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

#### Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 13, Session 5" questions from kids video

#### Missions Moment

- ☐ "Early Days" missions video

#### Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



### LOVE

#### Discussion & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



### LIVE

#### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ brooms, 4
- ☐ crumpled paper, 1 per kid

#### Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** “ Could you use a boat to fly to the moon? Why not? ”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Worship God Alone” on the activity page.

| **SAY** “ Sometimes we can make things try and do what they were not made to do. A boat was not made to fly to the moon. In today’s Bible story, the people of Israel looked to idols to do what only God can do. But Isaiah gave them a message to remind them that only God is the one true God. ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### ☐ OPTION 1: CREATED THINGS



Invite kids to sit in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by asking her to think of something in creation that starts with the letter A, such as an alligator. The kid on her right will say a created thing that starts with the letter B.

Continue to go around the circle, directing kids to name a created thing associated with a letter of the alphabet until you reach the letter Z. Offer help to any kid who may have trouble thinking of a created thing.

| **SAY** “ Who made all of these created things? [Allow responses.] Yes, God made them. Can a tree hear prayers? [Allow responses.] No, it cannot. Created things cannot do what God can. In today’s Bible story, we will learn that the people of Israel started to worship created things rather than God, who made them. ”

#### ☐ OPTION 2: SING AND SHOUT

Before the session, write the instructions below on strips of paper (you may also choose your own that are tailored to your group). Cut the strips and fold them. Put the folded instructions into a bowl.

- Sing “Jesus Loves Me”
- Shout, “Rejoice!” 10 times
- Sing “Amazing Grace”
- Shout, “The Lord saves!” 5 times
- Sing your favorite worship song
- Shout, “He is the First and the Last, the one true God!” 3 times

Direct kids to pair up with a partner. Invite the pairs to take turns choosing a strip from the bowl. Encourage kids to perform the instructions for the class. Read the instructions to any kid who may need help.

| **SAY** “ God is worthy of all our praise. In today’s Bible story, Isaiah encouraged the people to sing and shout to the one true God. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “Hello, everyone. I am [your name] and I am so glad to be here with you today. [Hold up a Bible.] Why do we need to read the Bible? [Allow responses.] God has given us His Word so that we can know Him and understand how we were made to worship Him.

Long ago, God spoke to the prophets and gave them important messages to give to the people. When we read the Bible, we learn about the messages the prophets spoke. In today’s story, we will hear a message the prophet Isaiah told the people.”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “Let’s see if we can recite the big picture question and answer together. **What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.** Idolatry hurts us because idols lead us away from God. Sometimes we look to other things to do what only God can do. But God gave us His Word and Jesus to remind us that He is the one true God.

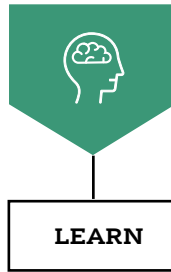
Just as a boat is made to move through the water, our hearts are made for God. God deserves all of our love and worship. Let’s say the big picture question and answer together again. **What is idolatry? Idolatry is a sin of the heart in which we love and value something else above God.**”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “God sent prophets to the people of Israel to tell them to stop worshiping idols. The kings Jeroboam and Ahab led the people to worship false gods. But God was merciful and sent prophets to remind the people that He is the one true God.

Then, Elijah and Elisha performed miracles to point people to God. The miracles also showed the people that God is the one true God. Today, we will learn that God used the prophet Isaiah to tell the people to stop worshiping idols and return to worshiping the one true God.”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### LEARN the Bible Story

#### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Isaiah 44. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Are to Worship God Alone.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

#### WE ARE TO WORSHIP GOD ALONE

“Isaiah was a prophet who lived long ago—more than 700 years before Jesus was born—in the time when Israel was ruled by kings. **God had chosen Isaiah to take God’s message to His people, the Israelites.** The name Isaiah means “The Lord saves.” God used Isaiah to tell His people a very important message.

This was the word of the Lord—the message from God—that Isaiah the prophet spoke to the descendants of Jacob. **Isaiah said, “Listen, Israel. This is what the Lord, the King of Israel, says: I am the first and the last—the one true God. Can anyone else say what will happen in the future? No. Do not be surprised or afraid. I told you this long ago: There is no God but me.**

**“Everyone who makes idols wastes their time. They look to their idols for help, but no help comes. Their idols are worthless. Those people will be ashamed by their idolatry.**

“The ironworker labors over coals, shaping an idol with hammers. As he works, he gets hungry, thirsty, and tired. The woodworker measures and chisels wood. He uses a compass to make an idol in a form he thinks up on his own. **People look to their idols for salvation, but iron and wood cannot save.**

**“Remember these things, people of Israel. I will never forget about you. Do not worship created things. I—your Creator—have swept away your sins. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. Rejoice! This is what I have done for you. Sing and shout, for the Lord—the one true God—is glorified through you.”**

Christ Connection: God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves. ”

#### STORYTELLING TIPS

##### Use facial expressions:

Invite the kids to make the appropriate facial expressions when you teach these words: *surprised, afraid, ashamed, tired, rejoice.*

##### Use voice inflection:

Change your voice to be louder and deeper when you read the words that the Lord told to Israel.





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “Isaiah was another prophet that God sent to share God’s Word with the people of Israel. God told Isaiah to tell the people their idols were worthless. The people looked to the idols for help, but the idols could not help them. Who did Isaiah say could save them? **[Allow responses.]** Only God could help them and save them from their sin.

Isaiah told the people to turn away from the idols and worship God alone. What did Isaiah tell the people to do because God was able to save them from their sin? **[Allow responses.]** Yes, Isaiah told them to rejoice! Even though the people of Israel turned away from God and worshiped idols, God had made a way for their sin to be forgiven.

God also wants us to turn away from idols and worship only Him. God knows an idol cannot save us. God proved that He loves and can save us from our sin when He sent Jesus to die on the cross. Only God deserves to be worshiped with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength. ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “God alone is worthy of our worship. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and save us from our sins. We can turn from our idolatry and evil ways to rejoice in the God who saves. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 13, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Are there other ways to worship God besides singing?
2. What are some things in your life that pull your attention away from God?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

**SAY** “The beautiful music you will hear in the video, as you see the scenes of the countryside and the people from Ghana, was written by a missionary kid named, Trey Haun. He helped his dad, William Haun, create this video so people could learn more about Ghana. ”

Play the missions video.

**SAY** “What was your favorite part of the video? **[Allow responses.]** Ghana is a beautiful country, isn’t it? Did you learn anything new about Ghana? **[Allow responses.]** Trey and his dad did a great job creating the music and videoing places in Ghana so we could learn more about this beautiful country. ”

Lead a prayer for the Haun family. Include these prayer requests from the family as you pray:

- 1) for the family to have courage as they tell others about Jesus, 2) for the Mamprusi people who live in Ghana to hear and respond to the good news about Jesus, 3) the health and safety of the Haun family, and 4) for Trey’s education as he is homeschooled.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write one third of the key passage on strips of paper, another third on strips of paper, and the last third on strips of paper. Make enough strips of paper for each kid to have one.

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Deuteronomy 6:4-5 together.

Provide each kid with a strip of paper. Lead each kid to find two kids who have the other parts of the key passage. Once kids have formed a group of three and have all parts of the key passage, invite them to read it aloud together.

**SAY** “When we love other things more than God, we make those things into idols. God commands us to love Him first. He alone is worthy of our worship. Because He first loved us by sending Jesus, we can love Him with all of our heart, soul, and strength.”

Lead kids to sing “The Lord Our God (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

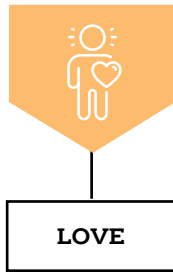
Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “Dear God, thank You for showing us how to live through the Bible. Help us to follow You and love You in all we do. Thank You for loving us first. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**







## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### **LOVE** God by Applying the Story

#### **1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS** (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Isaiah 44. Remind kids that the Book of Isaiah contains many prophecies about the nation of Israel and the surrounding nations. Explain that Isaiah also prophesied about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Isaiah 44:9-11 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses. Consider pointing out the location of Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map.

**SAY** “God sent Isaiah to speak to the people of Israel. The Israelites had turned away from God. They worshiped false gods they made with their own hands. God reminded the Israelites that He alone is God. Idols cannot heal. Idols cannot save. Idols are a waste of time. Only God is the first and the last. He alone is worthy of worship.

If we begin to love something more than God, we can pray and ask God to help us love Him more than anything. God can turn our hearts back to Him. He sent Jesus to save us from our sin and show us that He is the one true God.”

#### **2 GROUP DISCUSSION** (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “Why are idols worthless?”

Remind kids that idols are things that hold no real power. They are things that could never compare to the one true God. Idols cannot hear us. Idols will never make our hearts fully happy. Idols cannot save us. Lead kids to understand that only God can be everything we need. God hears us, makes us truly happy, and saves us.

**SAY** “How does the meaning of Isaiah's name match his message to the people?”

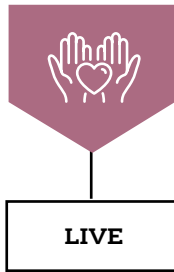
Recall that Isaiah means “the Lord saves.” Encourage kids to think about how Isaiah told the people how they could be saved. He reminded them that idols cannot save them but only the Lord can. Challenge kids to remember how only the Lord saves when they might be tempted to love something else more than God.

**SAY** “How does God's message through Isaiah give us peace and hope?”

Prompt kids to think about how Isaiah told the people God had not forgotten them. God was there for Israel, even when they practiced idolatry. He will always be here for us as well. Lead kids to think about God's love for us by providing a way for us to be saved through Jesus. Discuss how we can have hope and peace because of what Jesus has done for us through His death and resurrection.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### **LIVE** the Mission

#### **1 ACTIVITY CHOICE** (10 minutes)

##### ☐ **OPTION 1: CREATE A RHYTHM**



Lead the kids in some rhythm games to create music in the room. Sit in a circle and direct the kids to perform the following actions: snap, snap, stomp, stomp, clap, clap. Continue through several rounds of the rhythm activity changing up the rhythm each time. Consider inviting kids to make up a rhythm for the class.

Continue the rhythm activity, allowing kids the opportunity to say their names during the rest beats. For example: clap, clap, Bray-den, clap, clap, Han-nah. Lead the kids to keep the rhythm until all kids have said their name.

**SAY** “ Some people have musical gifts. People can use these gifts to serve the Lord in many different ways. We saw earlier how Trey Haun was able to create the beautiful music in the video about Ghana. ”

##### ☐ **OPTION 2: SWEEP AWAY**

Form four teams of kids. Direct each team to go to a corner of the room. Provide each team with a broom and a pile of crumpled paper. Lead teams to start the game by having one kid sweep one ball of paper to the center of the room as fast as she can. Once the ball is swept away, she will run back to her team and hand the broom to the next kid to sweep his ball away.

Continue directing each team to sweep their balls away. The first team to sweep their balls to the center of the room wins.

**SAY** “ While you all had to work hard to sweep the balls of paper away, we do not have to do any work to have our sins swept away. Isaiah told the people of Israel that God had swept away their sin. If we believe in Jesus, God sweeps our sin away too. ”

#### **2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER** (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.