

Breakout Group Discussion

1. Say your name and if you are more an indoor fun or outdoor fun type person.
2. Read the scenario together
3. Go to your Group page and fill in the chart
4. Remember that identifying our false gods (or idols) and what they ask us to do is important to understand our hearts → and then we can turn from them (repent) to the One True God (believe)

Scenario

Alex and Brian are followers of Jesus. They met at church and decided to share an apartment. They agreed to share in cleaning, keeping the place nice and other things about living together.

In the kitchen, Alex likes to only clean up, wash dishes about once or twice a week, when there are a good number of dirty plates, etc.

Brian prefers to have the kitchen cleaned every day. Brian found he was washing the dishes almost daily, washing Alex's dishes, and felt Alex was taking advantage of him.

Alex doesn't notice how irritated Brian is getting with this. Meanwhile, as Brian is feeling used by Alex, Brian is trying hard to keep with other agreements they made.

Alex goes to bed before Brian nearly every night and likes Brian to keep his music quiet so he can sleep. Brian likes to listen to music before going to bed to relax and likes to hear the music through speakers rather than through earphones so he can "feel" the music. Occasionally, Brian listens to loud music at night, and Alex comes out of his bedroom to ask him to turn it down. The conversation about this can get rather harsh some nights. Brian can tell he is doing this with a little bit of passive aggressive retaliation in mind for Alex making him wash all the dishes.

Is this how followers of Jesus should treat each other?

God	False gods - A false god (or idol) is anything we believe we need apart from Jesus to make us happy, satisfied or fulfilled.	Gospel	False gospels - any actions or rules we have to do to please a false god to get desired outcomes	Salvation	False salvations - any desired result, possession or situation that will happen when a false god is obeyed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One True God • Loves me • Can save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A created thing • Doesn't love me • Can't save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Lived for me • Jesus Died for me • I don't have to do anything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I must perform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Himself is my "Precious" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things are my precious • Satisfaction is partial, not lasting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is David trusting in besides God? • Performance and competence to gain attention • Playing BB well • Self • Winning at BB • Basketball Glory 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are David's false gods asking him to do? • Do whatever it takes to be good at BB • Trusting self to perform • Have to be good at BB to feel worth 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does David hope to gain from doing what his false gospel says? • Self-worth • Respect from peers • security • identity • validation • self-respect • But what does he actually get? • broken relationships • Short term happiness only • Disrespect from who he thought were friends - strained, at least • fleeting 	

Group 1

God	False gods	Gospel	False gospels	Salvation	False salvations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One True God • Loves me • Can save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A created thing • Doesn't love me • Can't save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Lived for me • Jesus Died for me • I don't have to do anything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I must perform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Himself is my "Precious" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things are my precious • Satisfaction is partial, not lasting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian trusting in besides God? • Alex - codependency, a sense of control to keep the house environment quiet • Brian - a sense of control to keep the house clean every day, a standard - main issue = poor communication, different expectations, no room to share and respond the expectations, no opportunity to compromise/find middle ground 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do? • Alex - not considerate towards Brian; unwilling to change/accommodate/negotiate • Brian - to keep things in control all the time according to his own standards / unlove the person that doesn't meet his standards; judge alex as "dirty" - to be passive-aggressive 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says? • a clean house (Brian) • a quiet house (Alex) • hoping to gain the outcome that he wants expecting the other side to accommodate (both) • But what does they actually get? • passive-aggressiveness, poor communication • selfishness • pride 	

Group 2

God	False gods	Gospel	False gospels	Salvation	False salvations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One True God • Loves me • Can save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A created thing • Doesn't love me • Can't save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Lived for me • Jesus Died for me • I don't have to do anything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I must perform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Himself is my "Precious" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things are my precious • Satisfaction is partial, not lasting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian trusting in besides God? • Alex - • Brian - • Both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social agreement - Set Expectations - Concept of Politeness/Acceptable - Personal Preferences 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do? • Alex - • Brian - • Both: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The other person's compliance with our agreement impacts my contentment. - Relationship is transactional and judgemental 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says? • Justification/An excuse to treat the other less than what a friend should • Being physically comfortable in their home, but in a way that infringes upon the other's comfort • But what do they actually get? • Actually end up in an uncomfortable environment (unspoken conflict) • Strained relationship • Disappointment 	

Group 3

God	False gods	Gospel	False gospels	Salvation	False salvations
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• What is Alex and Brian trusting in besides God?

- Alex - freedom/comfort/evading responsibilities; trusting in one's own ability ability to retaliate; self-centeredness; fear of not getting enough rest
- Brian - control/cleanliness; pride in being responsible; doing things for "payment" - an exchange instead of freely giving

• What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do?

- Alex - Alex wanting comfort and not conflict
- Brian - to keep up with his own standard of cleanliness for his own sake..for his own image's sake - could link to identity as will (Brian cannot live this way because I am Brian :P); holding up other people to their standards..and looking down on Alex; putting his own judgment on Alex
- both - comply and listen to their directions

• What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing false gospel says?

- Alex - rest
 - Brian - cleanliness
 - Seeking peace and justice on their own terms
 - Feeling justified
 - **But what does they actually get?**
 - more division
 - by not hashing it out, they create more conflict - und problems that pop up here and there
 - Alex's solution - talk to Brian, confront about nois tension; try to work it out.
 - Brian's solution -
- Doing things out of love

Nailing apples on a tree - as opposed to growing fruit

I could turn the music down or do the dishes but if it do

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• What is Alex and Brian trusting in besides God?

- Alex - his own upbringing, his own comfort and schedule/routine, his own authority (my way or the highway)
- Brian - pride and diligence, his ways of cleanliness are the right and only way, acting as judge/executing judgement on Alex, punishing him, Alex was being inconsiderate first

• What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do?

- Alex - so focused on his priorities that he is unaware of Brian being uncomfortable, as long as his own situation is comfortable all is ok
- Brian - act as judge, defending their point of view instead of talking things out and how they feel, vs trying to understand the others' perspective
- both try to save face/appearances because their pride is hurt

• What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says?

- They want to be restored, they feel like something was taken away from them
- they feel entitled to comfort, enacting justice
- Brian hopes to gain recognition for his diligence
- enacting Punishment
- **But what does they actually get?**
- Roommate ruin!!
- bitterness, tension, loss of a friendship, poor sleep
- lack of blessings of true fellowship, true peace

Group 5

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is Alex and Brian trusting in besides God? • Alex - • Brian - • Both expect other party to do the same type of chores they do in the same way • Both probably think they're right • Both expects one another to be mind readers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do? • Alex - • Brian - • Asserting your cleanliness on the other • Both believe their living style of the only correct way. Narrow mindedness • Assume the other should know this. Assume the other person should know better 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says? • Control, clean apartment and a quiet apartment • Vengeance, even if that wasn't the intention, the other party feels this way • Satisfaction of being right • False narratives forming leading to spiral • But what does they actually get? • No resolution, more conflict • Toxic relationship • No empathy or room to listen to one another • Anger and resentment-- back talking • Missed learning opportunity for healthy
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Group 6

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- **What is Alex and Brian trusting in besides God?**
- Alex -comfort (okay with being dirty, quite before sleeping), wanting to feel relaxed, expects the other person to follow the rules (which is why they get upset when the rules are not followed)
- Brian - comfort (keeping things clean, likes loud music), thinking clean things will satisfy him
- Both- taking care of yourself, without the intent of strengthening the relationship, self-preservation, self-control

- **What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do?**
- Alex - do the bare minimum,
- Brian - take control and do what you think is right, be selfish??, to become passive aggressive instead of being truthful and honest
- Both- both seem to have good qualities, but they are only fixated on the bad quality. they don't like to be confrontational

- **What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says?**
- Both: want the things they want (Alex: quite night, Brian: dishes need to be done)
- cleanliness, peace, orderliness,
- sense of self-worth and respect by how they think/feel ppl should treat them
- **But what does they actually get?**
- Both: they get resentment, bitterness, frustration, anger, disappointment from unfulfilled expectations

Group 7

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian trusting in besides God? • Brian (dishwasher / listening to loud music / passive-aggressive) - trust in themselves, preserve a relationship, rules • Alex (comfort driven) - trust in themselves, comfort, sleep 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do? • Brian - focus on self, avoid confrontation, self-righteousness or pride • Alex - focus on self, not focus on his roommate, not pay attention to others, ignore the needs of his roommates and surroundings 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says? • following the agreement set in place • Preserve the relationship without confrontation / conflict • happiness • wanting praise instead of serving others • But what do they actually get? • neither side gets the grace that they desire • disconnected and lost relationship 	

Group 8

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One True God • Loves me • Can save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A created thing • Doesn't love me • Can't save me 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus Lived for me • Jesus Died for me • I don't have to do anything 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I must perform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God Himself is my "Precious" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things are my precious • Satisfaction is partial, not lasting

- **What is Alex and Brian trusting in besides God?**

- Alex - his own preferences (feeling justified in that sense)
- Brian - his own preferences + retribution / vindication (likewise feels justified in this too), trusting in his own works (and better than Alex since Alex skimps on dish washing).

- **What are Alex and Brian's false gods asking them to do?**

- Alex - do what feels good to you / to obtain your own comfort. Stand up for yourself. Agreements only matter so much to him especially if they inconvenience him.
- Brian - exact punishment / revenge / justice on the other, self-righteousness, justifies himself of being the "better person" since he keeps the other agreements.

- **To what extent was dishwashing as well as quiet hours agreed upon / communicated between them?**

- **What do Alex and Brian hope to gain from doing what their false gospel says?**

- Their own way, control, self-gratification, comfort..
- Justified / being right.
- (Brian) Vindication.
- Both want a nice apartment to live in, probably want encouraging experiences living with a brother in Christ.
- Both have expectations of one another, and somewhat are looking for a place that fits what they want.
- **But what does they actually get?**
- Conflict over differences of living standards (dishwashing / quiet hours).
- Difference in character.