

► **Outline**

Today's Message based on 1 Samuel 5:1-12; 6:1-21.

Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

1 John 5:21 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Exodus 20:3-5; Romans 15:4; Philippians 3:18-19)

Idolatry is placing _____ ahead of God.

What do I idolize?

B. Results of Idolatry:

(1 Samuel 5-6. C/R: Romans 1:18-32)

1. _____ revealed.

(1 Samuel 5:1-5. C/R: Judges 10:11-14; Isaiah 44:9-18)

2. _____ received.

(1 Samuel 5:6-6:12. C/R: Deuteronomy 28:58-60;
Romans 1:18-32)

3. _____ rebuked.

(1 Samuel 6:13-21. C/R: Numbers 4:4-6,18-20;
Colossians 3:5; 1 John 2:15-17)

Answers: A. anything B.1. Powerlessness 2. Punishment 3. Presumption

Resource Information: Unless otherwise noted, outline and onscreen verses are from NLT version (New Living Translation) of *The Holy Bible*. C/R, if noted, refers to a 'cross reference' of Scripture verse(s). Today's outline and discussion guide are available to mobile device users through the Brookwood Church app available through your favorite app store.

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide with friends or on your own to pursue your relationship with Jesus. Take time to reflect, learn and talk with God. Find a Small Group at brookwoodchurch.org/smallgroups.

Conversation Starter

What is one of the most severe illnesses or injuries you've experienced?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [1 Samuel 5:1-12](#).

1. What is *idolatry* in the way the Bible uses that term? Can you define it in a sentence or two? For further insight, read [Exodus 20:3-5](#); [Isaiah 44:19-20](#); [Colossians 3:5](#).

2. How were the Philistines practicing idolatry?

3. How did God respond?

Read [1 Samuel 6:1-21](#).

4. As the story continues, how did the Philistines respond to their dire situation? How would you summarize their reaction to God's judgment?

5. Read [vs. 19-21](#) again. After studying this entire story, what would you say is the primary reason for God's anger?

Read [Romans 3:19-26](#).

6. Write down at least five things that are true according to this passage. Reflect on and discuss these things with a friend or your Small Group.

7. How do God's mercy and justice work together in salvation?

8. What is God revealing to you about yourself and about Him this week? How is He leading you to respond?

Soul Training

Sit quietly for a few minutes allowing space for your mind to slow down and your heart to be still. Read [Psalm 139:23-24](#). Ask God to reveal anything in your life that is offensive to Him or that draws your attention away from Him. Be honest with yourself and with God, fully surrendering your life to Him. Thank God for the forgiveness and new life fully available in Jesus.

Memory Verse

Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts.

[1 John 5:21 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [1 Samuel 5:1-12](#)

Day 4: [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)

Day 2: [Romans 3:19-26](#)

Day 5: [Hebrews 12:5-11](#)

Day 3: [1 John 2:15-17](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, February 18, we'll continue our series *Belonging to God: The Life of Samuel*. To prepare for the message, spend a few quiet moments reading [1 Samuel 7:1-17](#).