taking a ____________ thing and making it a ________________-thing.

How to ID an idol:

1. Does it ____________ your ________________?
2. Does it ____________ your ________________?
3. Does it ____________ your ________________?
4. How hard would it be to ________________ ________________?

American Idols

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10.
HEARING AND DOING

Each week this section will provide next steps for going deeper with the sermon material, as well as preparing for discussion in your Grow Group. Bring this sheet with you to your group meeting.

1. Read Isaiah 44:6-11. Why did God create Israel, and what does this have to do with him being the one, true God? There are echoes in this text from Israel’s story of how God did this… list as many as you can.

2. Read Isaiah 44:12-14. What is the significance of the weakness and needs of the craftsmen? There is a tremendous irony here as to the source of the skills and materials needed to make these idols… what might it be?

3. Read Isaiah 44:15-20. There is a breathtaking blindness that happens in idol worship. What are the causes of this blindness? Given these causes, what might the solutions be?

4. Read James 4:3-4. Note the word “adulterous”. How can praying to the one true God sometimes be a form of worshipping idols?

5. Look over the Top Ten American Idols list on the back. For each one, rate yourself on how tempted you are to “worship” it (1-10, 1 = not very tempting, 5 = a problem, 10 = somebody stop me!)

6. Read the following quote from C.S. Lewis. What might this have to do with worshipping idols?

I was standing today in the dark toolshed. The sun was shining outside and through the crack at the top of the door there came a sunbeam. From where I stood that beam of light, with the specks of dust floating in it, was the most striking thing in the place. Everything else was almost pitch-black. I was seeing the beam, not seeing things by it. Then I moved so that the beam fell on my eyes. Instantly the whole previous picture vanished. I saw no toolshed, and (above all) no beam. Instead I saw, framed in the irregular cranny at the top of the door, green leaves moving on the branches of a tree outside and beyond that, 90 odd million miles away, the sun. Looking along the beam, and looking at the beam are very different experiences.

- C. S. LEWIS “MEDITATION IN A TOOLSHED”, God in the Dock, quoted in When I Don’t Desire God.