

Connecting Church and Home

Quarter 2, Week 6 :: **Broken Cisterns**

Treasure Story: Jeremiah 10:1-16

Idols come in all shapes and sizes. They can be statues that are worshiped by primitive tribes or possessions we own or people we admire. In our Treasure Story for today, the prophet Jeremiah warned the people of Judah about the idolatry of the neighboring lands. Jeremiah compared idolatry to seeking water from a broken cistern instead of drinking fully from the living waters of God's love (Jeremiah 2:13). God offers us His love today through Jesus Christ so that we no longer have to be slaves to idols that cannot help us.

Connect

"The human heart is an idol factory that takes good things like a successful career, love, material possessions, even family, and turns them into ultimate things. Our hearts deify them as the center of our lives, because, we think, they can give us significance and security, safety and fulfillment, if we attain them."

- Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters*

The fight against idolatry is not a one-time affair. We have to be constantly on guard against it. This is why God sent Jeremiah to warn the people of Judah. If we are not reminded of our tendency to make good things into idols, God knows that we will become ensnared. Here are a few ideas for discussing with your family how to be wary of our tendency to make idols:

- **If I Could Just Have "X":** Many times our idolatries are revealed in our desires. Take a few minutes to ask yourself and your children the following question: If you could have anything in the world, what would it be? Many times the answer to that question is harmless. But think about your answer and the answers your kids share. Talk about your answers and why you chose them. Consider if there is anything that you have your hearts set on that might keep you from obeying and worshiping God fully.
- **What Is My Refuge:** God, our Heavenly Father, should be the one we go to when we are struggling or are in pain. Yet for all His grace and mercy, we tend to view Him as a last resort. Talk with your children about the tendency of our hearts to not make God our immediate refuge in crisis. Encourage one another not to treat the grace that God offers as "Plan B."

My Mission As Parent

- Do you struggle with acknowledging your tendency to make idols out of good things?
- How do you fight against your heart idolatries?
- When you are facing struggles, do you retreat to God right away or try to figure it out for yourself first?

Prayer Points

- Ask the Lord to help you and your children admit that you both struggle with idols of your own making.
- Pray that the Lord will help you see the futility of depending on idols when His grace is so near.
- Praise the Lord for reminding us through the words of Jeremiah that we don't have to go to idols to find strength and comfort.