

“American Idols”

Rev. Dr. Joe Scruggs, Senior Pastor
January 6, 2013

The Foundation Genesis 12:1-3

- Big Deal - Sometimes the only way to find out who God is to see what happens when He is all we have.
- Big Promise - “I will make you into a great nation.”
- Big Question #1 - Where were the offspring?
Genesis 12:7
- Big Question #2 - What was Abraham’s ultimate goal?

Finally Genesis 18:10-15

Oh, Wow! Genesis 22:2-14

- God can be trusted not to do anything ultimately unloving.

What’s Going On Here?

- Had Isaac, not God, become the _____?
Had Isaac become an “idol”?
- Had Abraham become more focused on the _____
than the _____?
- Had his love for Isaac become the _____ of his
life - not God?

American Idols

- Anything, even good things, can become an idol. We start looking to them to provide something only God can provide.
- An idol can be something we believe that we need to make our lives _____.
- Tim Keller

The Great Paradox If you really want to do something well, _____.

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| *Kids | *Career |
| *Kids’ success | * _____ |
| *Spouse | *Intimacy |
| * _____ | * _____ |

It was only after Abraham took this journey that he would be able to love Isaac well and wisely.

“The Lord Will Provide”

- God provided the lamb for us.
- Romans 5:8 - *Yet the proof of God’s amazing love is this: that it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us.*

Joining Abraham on the Mountain

Ezekiel 14:1-5 *God wants to recapture our hearts.*

Talk it over...with your friends, family, or Growth Group.

Talking through the ideas presented in Sunday's message helps us apply God's word to our individual lives. These questions and thoughts are designed to help you put His words into action in your life this week. We encourage you to talk these over with other Christians that you are close to.

Read over Genesis 22:1-19. What is your emotional reaction to the story? Is God being harsh or unduly mean-spirited to ask this of Abraham?

How would you define idolatry? What are some cultural idols that are present in our environment?

What are some of the idols in your life? What makes it difficult to let go of them?

How would having God as the foundation or anchor of your life change the way you view things?

What are some of the "good things" that could easily become idols if we don't stay alert?

What are some of the ways that God has been trying to "recapture" your mind?

What is your main "take-away" from this week? How do you plan to live that out?

(Please note-much of the information presented today was adapted form a book entitled Counterfeit Gods by Timothy Keller. We would certainly encourage you to read this book as we go through the series. It will be a strong supplement to any information we might present.)

