

Fall Message Series: American Idols

Challenge:

Think about the “idols” in your life. What would it look like if you changed your relationship to one of them? Try it.

Spiritual practice:

The spiritual practice for this series is one of letting go and severing attachments to those things which, while they may be idolized by those around us, do not serve us. This practice is a deeply personal one, and can take whatever form you wish. Experiment a little and see what works for you.

Discussion questions:

Worship, according to Gerald Gabel, is “to identify those things of greatest value and then to prioritize every element of your life around those central precepts.” What things have you prioritized your life around? Do they align with your values? How do we stay true to our values while living in a culture (or community or family) that prioritizes things which do not align with them?

Journal/reflection/art prompt:

holding on/letting go

Family Resources from Miss Carol:

Idolizing YouTube: <https://smeharbinger.net/stars-in-their-eyes-todays-children-idolize-youtubers-but-internet-fame-is-harder-than-it-seems/>

A highschooler's insightful article from 2018

<https://thewildcattribune.com/10589/uncategorized/idolizing-people-harms-our-society/>

How celebrity influences teens

<https://www.newportacademy.com/resources/empowering-teens/celebrities-influence/>

video book for young kiddos *Think for Myself at School/Hammel*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV62E7wjPnw>

video book for elementary kiddos *Those Shoes/Boeltz*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bGKYmjaYqhY>

Readings, etc. from the preachers:

Articles

"[Richard Rohr on Idolatry](#)" from *The Center for Action and Contemplation*

"[What if We Prayed Inside the Ka'Ba of the Heart](#)" from *OnBeing*

"[Faith, Doubt, & the Idol of Certainty: An Interview with Greg Boyd](#)" from *Rachel Held Evans*

"[Pope Condemns Idolatry of Cash in Capitalism](#)" from *The Guardian*

"[No One Said Destroying our Idols Would be Easy](#)" from *Relevant*

["American Idols"](#) from *Medium*

Quotes

"The moment God is figured out with nice, neat lines and definitions, we are no longer dealing with God." ~Rob Bell

"An idol is anything we build our lives around that gives us the control we want, without any vulnerability." ~Andy Crouch

"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." ~Audre Lorde (in [Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches](#))

Books

[Saving God from Religion: A Minister's Search for Faith in a Skeptical Age](#) by Robin Meyers

[This Here Flesh: Spirituality, Liberation, and the Stories that Make Us](#) by Cole Arthur Riley

[Benefit of the Doubt: Breaking the Idol of Certainty](#) by Greg Boyd

[The Life We're Looking For: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World](#) by Andy Crouch

[Dismantling Racism: A Workbook for Social Change Groups](#), by Kenneth Jones and Tema Okun (web version available at www.dismantlingracism.org)

[A Feminist Ethic of Risk](#) by Dr. Sharon Welch

[All About Love: New Visions](#) by bell hooks

[Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches](#) by Audre Lorde

[The Fire Next Time](#) by James Baldwin

[Parable of the Sower](#) by Octavia Butler

Songs

[Pendulum Swingers](#) by Indigo Girls

[Get Out the Map](#) by Indigo Girls

[No Gringo](#) by Vienna Teng

[Wrestling Israel](#) by Flobots

[Anne Braden](#) by Flobots

[Own Light](#) by Brother Ali <https://youtu.be/04bp4bG6Zhk>

Poetry

[These Poems, She Said](#) by Robert Bringhurst

Questions? Suggestions? Feedback? Please feel free to contact one of the members of the Spiritual Development Ministry:

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