

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE SECOND COMMANDMENT  
The Ten Commandments — Week 4

**ICEBREAKER:** What character trait are you currently trying to improve or change?

**OVERVIEW:** The second commandment is often overlooked because most Christians assume that idolatry is not a 21st century problem. However idolatry is just as prevalent today as it was in the days of Moses. Everyone faces two temptations in their relationship with God. First, to reject the authority of the Bible and create your own concept of God that better fits your preferences. Second, to use visible images and physical items to help you feel closer to a God who is both invisible and spiritual. Both of these temptations are the sin of idolatry. Today we will go deeper with the meaning and application of the second commandment.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. What is forbidden in the second commandment?
3. Read Exodus 20:4-6. Does the prohibition against idolatry forbid only idols of false gods, or even idols of the true God? Explain.
4. Is it okay to use an image or statue to worship the true God, as long as you are not worshiping the image but what the image represents? Explain.
5. Most people today don't worship images, icons, or items. How do people commit the sin of idolatry today?

6. How can we be sure to avoid the sin of idolatry?
7. Is it wrong to own or make religious images? Explain.
8. How is the second commandment different from the first commandment?
9. Why does God forbid idolatry?
11. How does the sin of idolatry cause you to also break the first commandment – "Have no other Gods besides Me"?
12. Read Psalm 115:4-8. What does it mean that those who make idols are just like them?
13. Go back to Exodus 20:4-6. What does it mean that God will punish the children for their fathers' iniquity to the third and fourth generations? Is this fair?
13. Every commandment is both positive and negative. The negative side of the second commandment is to avoid idolatry. The positive side to this commandment is to worship God in spirit and in truth (See John 4:24)? What does it mean to worship God in spirit and in truth?

**The Last Word:** "To worship the right God in the wrong way is to worship the wrong God." Al Mohler