

# Worshiping God Alone

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1** 

**Lesson 10****Focus:**

God alone is worthy of our devotion.

**Lesson 10****Bible Basis:**

I Kings 11:3; 28-31, 38;  
14:5-9

**Lesson 10****Memory Verse:**

We also know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourself from idols.  
—1 John 5:20-21

**Students will watch a video about the spending and interests of Generation Z as they explore how God alone is worthy of our devotion.**

**Materials:**

- Internet access

**What people spend money on tells us a lot about their priorities. Let's take a look at some of the things teenagers find important.**

Watch the following video with your class and then discuss the questions that follow [2:15]:

How teens are spending their money — And why food is the top priority

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkruFR88g2A>

- **Did any of the purchase data surprise you?** (Answers will vary. Teens may be surprised that food was one of the biggest items teens spend money on, even more so than entertainment.)
- **Most of the purchases mentioned involve pleasure-seeking or temporary enjoyment. Can you name some of them?** (Coffee drinks, food, clothes, and video games are some of the categories.)
- **How would you define the word “idol”? Could any of these things be placed in the category of “idolatry”?** (An idol is an “object of worship” or any person or thing that is greatly admired or revered. Given this definition, it seems clear that anything we obsess over or put higher than God can become an idol.)
- **Why is it so easy to place more emphasis on material possessions or celebrity endorsements than things with lasting value?** (Material possessions feel concrete and provide immediate gratification; spiritual values are abstract and harder to quantify. Also, teen identity and acceptance is often wrapped in activities, clothing, and appearance.)

**It's not a sin to own an electronic gadget or buy a Frappuccino. But God does want us to focus our spiritual worship on Him alone. We'll discover today that idolatry transcends time and place. It seems to be built into the human condition.**

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

# Worshiping God Alone

for use as  
STEP 4 

## Lesson 10

### Focus:

God alone is worthy of our devotion.

## Lesson 10

### Bible Basis:

1 Kings 11:3; 28-31, 38; 14:5-9

## Lesson 10

### Memory Verse:

We also know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true by being in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life. Dear children, keep yourself from idols. —1 John 5:20-21

### Materials:

- A large container made of plastic, cardboard, or other material
- Balloon

If your class is meeting online, you can do the demonstration with the balloon and container online for students to watch. Then, you can use the breakout room feature of your video chat software for students to discuss how they can elevate Christ in their lives.

A common approach to teaching about idolatry is to include “lists” of negative influences, time-wasters, or possessions that could be considered modern idols. However, it is often more productive to teach young people how to elevate the role of Jesus Christ in their lives rather than root out specific items that may or may not be at the heart of the matter in the first place. It can be helpful to use an object lesson to show how we fill the limited space in our lives with either God-honoring content or God-diminishing content.

By using a container and an inflated balloon, we can show students how filling our lives with more of Jesus will result in less space for superficial pursuits.

**Imagine that this container represents your life as a teenager. Each day we have the opportunity to fill it with all kinds of priorities. Now imagine that this balloon is our devotion to Jesus. If I blow it up just a little bit and place it in the box, I still have a lot of room leftover. (Blow up the balloon part way and place it into the container to illustrate.) But if I blow this up even more, the room for other things begins to shrink. It starts to become the most significant item in this container. (Repeat by inflating the balloon to its full size).**

Instruct your students to partner up (or use the breakout room feature of your video chat software) and think of a specific thing they can do to elevate the significance of Jesus Christ in their lives (these could be things like attending a small group Bible study, adding a Bible app to their smartphone, starting the day with private prayer, or finding a prayer partner at school). After a few minutes, invite pairs to share with the whole class some of the ideas they discussed.

When you finish, discuss these questions together.

- **Why is it better to think in terms of filling our life with Jesus rather than getting rid of “bad” influences?** (Nurturing a relationship with God will always result in a more obedient life. Simply getting rid of the “don’ts” doesn’t necessarily result in a closer walk with Him; it just means we’re good at following the rules.)
- **Does this mean we don’t need to think about sin?** (Of course not! We still must be vigilant against behaviors that dishonor God.)
- **Can you tell when your life gets too cluttered with idols? What are some of the signs?** (Lack of interest in God’s people, laziness, an undisciplined life, negativity, bitterness toward others, obsession with superficial things, etc.)

When you are finished, pray together for the wisdom and diligence to avoid idols and keep God at the center of your lives.

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