



DESTROYING IDOLS

Idolatry is desiring something else more than Jesus.



DESTROYING IDOLS

Big Idea:

**Sometimes in order for God to draw us back to himself,
he lets our idols fail us.**



DESTROYING IDOLS

Exodus 20:2-3 (NLT)

“I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

“You must not have any other god but me.



DESTROYING IDOLS

Exodus 20:4-6 (NLT)

“You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.



DESTROYING IDOLS

Exodus 34:12-16 (NLT)

“Be very careful never to make a treaty with the people who live in the land where you are going. If you do, you will follow their evil ways and be trapped. Instead, you must break down their pagan altars, smash their sacred pillars, and cut down their Asherah poles. You must worship no other gods, for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.

“You must not make a treaty of any kind with the people living in the land. They lust after their gods, offering sacrifices to them. They will invite you to join them in their sacrificial meals, and you will go with them. Then you will accept their daughters, who sacrifice to other gods, as wives for your sons. And they will seduce your sons to commit adultery against me by worshiping other gods.

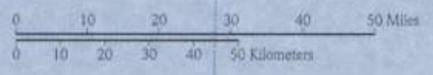


DESTROYING IDOLS

THE KINGDOMS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

1 KGS. 12

- City
- ★ Capital city
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak
- Israel
- Judah
- International roads
- Local roads





DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 16:30-33 (NLT)

But Ahab son of Omri did what was evil in the Lord's sight, even more than any of the kings before him. And as though it were not enough to follow the sinful example of Jeroboam, he married Jezebel, the daughter of King Eth-baal of the Sidonians, and he began to bow down in worship of Baal. First Ahab built a temple and an altar for Baal in Samaria. Then he set up an Asherah pole. He did more to provoke the anger of the Lord, the God of Israel, than any of the other kings of Israel before him.



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:1 (NLT)

Now Elijah, who was from Tishbe in Gilead, told King Ahab, “As surely as the Lord, the God of Israel, lives—the God I serve—there will be no dew or rain during the next few years until I give the word!”



DESTROYING IDOLS

Big Idea:

**Sometimes in order for God to draw us back to himself,
he lets our idols fail us.**



DESTROYING IDOLS

Deuteronomy 11:16-17 (NLT)

“But be careful. Don’t let your heart be deceived so that you turn away from the Lord and serve and worship other gods. If you do, the Lord’s anger will burn against you. He will shut up the sky and hold back the rain, and the ground will fail to produce its harvests. Then you will quickly die in that good land the Lord is giving you.



DESTROYING IDOLS

Big Idea:

**Sometimes in order for God to draw us back to himself,
he lets our idols fail us.**



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:2-6 (NLT)

Then the Lord said to Elijah, “Go to the east and hide by Kerith Brook, near where it enters the Jordan River. Drink from the brook and eat what the ravens bring you, for I have commanded them to bring you food.”

So Elijah did as the Lord told him and camped beside Kerith Brook, east of the Jordan. The ravens brought him bread and meat each morning and evening, and he drank from the brook.



DESTROYING IDOLS

Kerith means cut off.

Sometimes God shows us that he is the provider by cutting us off from all human assistance.



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:7 (NLT)

But after a while the brook dried up, for there was no rainfall anywhere in the land.



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:8-9 (NLT)

Then the Lord said to Elijah, “Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.”



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:10-13 (NLT)

So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, "Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?" As she was going to get it, he called to her, "Bring me a bite of bread, too."

But she said, "I swear by the Lord your God that I don't have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die."

But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son.”

1 Kings 17:14 (NLT)

For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!”

1 Kings 17:15-16 (NLT)

So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:17-22 (NLT)

Some time later the woman's son became sick. He grew worse and worse, and finally he died. Then she said to Elijah, "O man of God, what have you done to me? Have you come here to point out my sins and kill my son?" But Elijah replied, "Give me your son." And he took the child's body from her arms, carried him up the stairs to the room where he was staying, and laid the body on his bed.

Then Elijah cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, why have you brought tragedy to this widow who has opened her home to me, causing her son to die?”

And he stretched himself out over the child three times and cried out to the Lord, “O Lord my God, please let this child’s life return to him.” The Lord heard Elijah’s prayer, and the life of the child returned, and he revived!



DESTROYING IDOLS

1 Kings 17:23-24 (NLT)

Then Elijah brought him down from the upper room and gave him to his mother. "Look!" he said. "Your son is alive!"

Then the woman told Elijah, "Now I know for sure that you are a man of God, and that the Lord truly speaks through you."



DESTROYING IDOLS

Psalm 34:19 (ESV)

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.



DESTROYING IDOLS

Big Idea:

**Sometimes in order for God to draw us back to himself,
he lets our idols fail us.**



DESTROYING IDOLS

Identifying Idols:

1. Where do I desire to go first when I am in need?
2. Where do I sacrifice the most?
3. Where do I give my best?
4. What makes me angry when I don't get it or jealous when others do?
5. What do I think about and talk about the most?
6. What/Who am I becoming like?
7. What is the one thing that I cannot let go of?



DESTROYING IDOLS

Big Idea:

**Sometimes in order for God to draw us back to himself,
he lets our idols fail us.**



DESTROYING IDOLS