



# Choosing God Over Modern Idols



Discover how modern idols like phones, popularity, and money can steal your heart, and learn to put God first in every area of your life.

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## Introduction

In today's world, idols aren't just golden statues or relics from ancient times; *they can be things we interact with daily*. From smartphones to social media fame, money, and even our desire for acceptance, many modern idols compete for our attention and devotion.

As teenagers, it's easy to get caught up in these distractions. They promise happiness, validation, and a sense of worth. However, these often leave us feeling empty or anxious. The Bible teaches us to guard our hearts carefully and to prioritize God above all else.

We are called to examine what truly holds our hearts. What do we trust and worship? The journey of this study invites you to look honestly at modern idols and to embrace a life where God is first. This means learning to say no to distractions and yes to God's purpose and love. Over the next three days, you'll explore Scripture, reflect deeply, and be encouraged to choose God's path in a culture filled with competing voices. Remember, God's love is never outdated, and His plans for you are greater than anything the world can offer.





## Day 1: 📱 Identifying Modern Idols



Day 1: 📱 Identifying Modern Idols

## Your Verse

*Exodus 20:3 - "You shall have no other gods before me."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money."*
- *Colossians 3:2 - "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."*



## Devotional: Recognizing What Steals Your Heart

Modern idols may look different from the golden statues described in the Old Testament, but they still have a powerful hold over our hearts. Consider your phone, social media, the desire for popularity, or money. These can become the "gods" you put before God without realizing it.

Exodus 20:3 reminds us plainly, *"You shall have no other gods before me."* When we elevate anything above God, we risk losing sight of His perfect love and guidance. Matthew 6:24 highlights that we can't serve both God and money (or anything else) at the same time.

Take a moment to honestly assess what often commands your thoughts and time. What do you turn to for comfort or confidence? Becoming aware of these modern idols is the first step in taking back your heart and placing God first.



## Reflect and Apply

1. What things or people take up the most time and energy in your life?

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2. How do these modern idols shape your feelings and decisions?

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3. In what ways have you felt distant from God because of these distractions?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. List three modern idols in your life and describe how they influence you.

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2. Write about a moment when you chose an idol over God's guidance.

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3. Reflect on what it might look like to put God first instead of these idols.

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Day 1: 📖 Identifying Modern Idols

## Prayer for Today

**Lord**, help me to see clearly the idols disguised in my life. Give me the courage to put You first and trust Your plans above all else. *Teach me to prioritize Your voice over distractions, and guard my heart against anything that pulls me away from You.* Thank You for Your unfailing love and guidance as I seek to follow You each day. **Amen.** 🙏📖❤️✨





## Day 2: 👑 The Pull of Popularity and Approval



Day 2: 🍷 The Pull of Popularity and Approval

## Your Verse

*Galatians 1:10 – "Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?"*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Proverbs 29:25 – "Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe."*
- *John 12:43 – "They loved praise from people more than praise from God."*



## Day 2: 🍷 The Pull of Popularity and Approval

## Devotional: Choosing God's Approval Over People's

**Popularity and approval can feel like the ultimate prize for teens.** We often seek acceptance in groups, on social media platforms, or from influential people. Yet, when our desire for human approval becomes an idol, it can lead us away from living authentically and following God's path.

In Galatians 1:10, Paul asks, *"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God?"* This challenges us to consider whose approval truly matters. Proverbs 29:25 warns that fearing people can trap us, while trusting in God brings security.

The desire to be liked can cause us to compromise values or hide our true selves. Jesus experienced this when some loved praise from people more than from God (John 12:43). Today, reflect on how your quest for approval might be a modern idol.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How does your desire for popularity influence your choices?

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2. Do you find yourself changing to please others at the cost of your faith?

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3. How can trusting God more change the way you view yourself and others?

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Day 2: 📅 The Pull of Popularity and Approval

# Journaling Prompts

1. Describe a situation where you chose people's approval over God's approval.

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2. Write about how it feels when you are accepted by others versus when you follow God's truth.

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3. List ways to remind yourself daily that God's opinion is the most important.

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Day 2: 🏰 The Pull of Popularity and Approval

## Prayer for Today

**Father**, forgive me when I seek the approval of others ahead of You. Help me to find my worth and identity in Your love alone. *Give me strength to stand firm in my faith, even when it's unpopular.* Teach me to trust Your perfect acceptance above all else. Thank You for being the One who truly sees and values me. **Amen.** ✚️💖🛡️🌟





## Day 3: 💰 Putting God Before Possessions





## Your Verse

*1 Timothy 6:10 - "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."*

## Supporting Scriptures

- *Hebrews 13:5 - "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have."*
- *Luke 12:15 - "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed."*



## Devotional: Finding Contentment in God Alone

**Money and possessions can easily become idols when we depend on them for security and happiness.** As a teen, you might dream about having the latest gadgets, fashion, or status symbols. These desires aren't wrong in themselves, but they can become dangerous if they start to rule your heart.

1 Timothy 6:10 warns us that loving money is a root of all kinds of evil. The Bible encourages contentment (Hebrews 13:5) and cautions us to be on guard against greed (Luke 12:15).

True satisfaction comes not from what we own but from who we belong to—God. By placing God before possessions, we find peace and purpose that no amount of money can provide. Reflect on what brings you joy today and whether it points you toward or away from God.



## Reflect and Apply

1. How do material things influence your happiness and sense of worth?

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2. In what ways might greed or desire for possessions distract you from God?

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3. What steps can you take to be content with what God provides?

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## Journaling Prompts

1. Write about a time when you felt tempted by material things more than by God.

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2. Describe how having contentment in God might change your daily life.

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3. List practical ways to keep your heart focused on God, not possessions.

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Day 3: 💰 Putting God Before Possessions

## Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus**, teach me to love You more than money or possessions. Help me find contentment in Your provision and not in things that cannot last. *Guard my heart from greed and guide me to live generously and faithfully.* Thank You for being my true treasure, today and always. **Amen.** ❤️ 🙏 📖 🕊️





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