

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION

CLEAR THE STAGE: WEEK 4

While anyone can take time to answer these questions individually, these questions are best discussed in a group! Not in a group yet? We want you in one! Head over to southeastchristian.org to join a group in person or online, wherever you are - today!

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase “spiritual discipline”? Do you picture them more as a performance, a punishment, or penance? How has this affected the way you have practiced these disciplines in the past? How does viewing them in terms of pursuit of God help reframe them? How would that mindset increase their importance in your life?

As Kyle reminded us, we may not worship statues anymore, but our culture is full of idols. What are some of our most common cultural idols today? How do we see people chasing after these things? Of all the idols your group mentions, which has been the most tempting for you? Why? Why are we so tempted to take good things and make them “god things”?

Read Psalm 115:1. Why is the idol of self such a tempting idol for us today? When Kyle talked about some of the symptoms of the idol of self, which ones stuck out the most to you? How have you experienced these in your own life? What are some practical ways you can take the prayer of Psalm 115:1 and use it to combat the idol of self?

Read Psalm 115:2-8. These verses remind us that we become like the idols we chase. Look back at the list of idols your group made earlier. In what ways do these idols transform people? How do these idols make people become like them? What kind of effect can each of these idols have on an individual? On a family?

How can the practice of spiritual disciplines help displace the idols of our hearts? Think about the practices we’ve talked about over the past couple of weeks. How can each of these practices help crush the idols in our lives? In your experience, which of the spiritual disciplines is most helpful for loosening an idol’s hold on you?

Read Psalm 115:9-18. How does God’s nature compare to that of our idols? How does His character compare to theirs? How do the blessings offered by God compare to what idols offer us? How can these contrasts help us to remember to keep our heart’s pursuits in the right order? As you close your time together, spend some time praying these words of blessing over one another as a group.