**1. Motivate**

Who or what do you find it easy to brag about?

* kids, grandkids

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/t/1_s2af7jcs> If you have no wi-fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/yt4daf3t>

* my lawn
* new car
* my 3D printer
* new computer
* new recipe we tried
* new tool (chainsaw, lathe, table saw, impact driver …)
* my clever pet (dog, cat, bird, …)
* found a great store for shopping
* favorite sports team

**2. Transition**

Self-exaltation is deceiving and fleeting.

* The greatest joy comes from exalting God

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Worshiping A Substitute for God

Listen for who not to worship.

Matthew 4:8-11 (NIV) Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

What was the setting for the third temptation?

* a high mountain
* all the kingdoms of the world
* all their splendor

We can assume this was a visionary experience.

* No mountain in the world offers a view of the entire globe.
* No scriptural support that the devil has the power to make that happen
* Possibly this was a large picture – a painting
* Even so, this does not negate the reality of the temptation

What did the devil suggest Jesus do?

* he would give all these splendored kingdoms to Jesus
* Jesus would have to bow down and worship Satan

Consider the erroneous assumptions on which the devil built his appeal.

* That he had the power and authority to give those kingdoms
* That Jesus didn’t realize He (Jesus) would, in God the Father’s plan, be the ruler of all things
* That Jesus might want to place worldly fame and power ahead of His submission to God the Father

How did Jesus respond?

* told Satan to go away
* declared Scripture’s admonition that only Jehovah God is to be worshiped
* we are to serve God only

We think of idols as carved or cast images. Actually, an idol is anything that has a higher priority in one’s life than God. In what kind of situation might you feel the tension between what you want and what God wants to be important in your life?

* what job to take
* how extravagently you spend your money
* whether or not to tithe
* how indulgent you are in what you eat
* social drinking
* how much to be involved in church ministry opportunities

How is this temptation that Jesus faced an example for believers who face the similar temptation to choose other things—the things of this world—over God and the things of heaven?

* we daily face a similar temptations
* we are confronted with things or situations that we are tempted to place as more important in our lives than God
* we are exposed to advertisements for a vast array material things which tempt us to place as most important in our lives
* similarly advertisements for many kinds of entertainment that could become more important to us that God

3.2 Remember God’s Working in Your Life

Listen for a warning to God’s people.

Deuteronomy 6:10-12 (NIV) When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you--a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build, 11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant--then when you eat and are satisfied, 12 be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

To whom had the Promise Land been promised?

* their forefathers
* Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
* all the way down to the people hearing Moses’ challenge

What benefits would come to the people even though they had not labored for them?

* cities they didn’t build
* furnished houses that they did not provide
* wells they had not dug
* vineyards and olive groves they had not planted
* they would eat and be satisfied

⇨ These were things God would provide – not them

What are the dangers of prosperity? What did Moses warn them about?

* forgetting God’s role in providing all such things
* begin to think and act as if we have accomplished all this
* trust in our own strength and wisdom
* have the attitude that we don’t need God

How has God provided for you that is beyond what you have done for yourself?

* hearing the Gospel message, Jesus’ work of redemption
* health and strength, healing
* opportunities
* protection needed when we make foolish decisions
* protection when someone or something else places you in danger
* wisdom or skill of someone else who helped us in some way
* financial provision
* perseverance to continue on in a difficult situation

3.3 Worshiping God Pleases Him, Blesses Us

Listen for a reminder of who to worship.

Deuteronomy 6:13-15 (NIV) Fear the LORD your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. 14 Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; 15 for the LORD your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land.

Note the admonitions of verses 12 and 13 beside each other.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Verse 12 | Verse 13 |
| * Don’t forget the Lord
* Don’t forget all He has done for you
 | * Fear the Lord
* Serve Him only
* Take your oaths in His name (affirm your loyalty, declare His holiness above all others)
 |

What contrasts do you see?

* Verse 12 speaks to the temptation to forget God’s role during times of blessing and prosperity
* Verse 13 goes much farther – stand in AWE of God, surrender to His authority

Similar to the contrast between the life of a carnal Christian and a submitted believer

In the midst of all these blessings, what warnings were given?

* be careful not to forget Jehovah God
* serve only Him … not foreign deities, false gods
* take oaths, promises only to Him
* don’t follow other gods (of the peoples around you)
* fear, stand in awe of God
* remember that Jehovah is a “jealous God”

Why might all the blessings God gave them detract people from being solely devoted from Him?

* after a while we forget it was God that gave the blessings
* we tend to want to take the credit for these things ourselves
* we begin to expect these things as our due
* we begin to feel we *deserve* them
* we become devoted to our stuff

What makes it easier to follow gods other than the God of Israel?

* the pervasive secular culture
* our own sinful nature
* Recall James’ admonition: James 1:14-15 (NIV) but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. 15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

Consider how God is “jealous”. Contrast with our connotation of jealousy.

* God demands our sole devotion

See [comments](https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/oprah-a-jealous-god/) on Oprah Winfrey’s misunderstanding of God’s jealousy.

* This is not to protect His sensitive feelings
* This is God acting to preserve our very lives!

How might God’s jealousy for His people provide believers a sense of security?

* God is concerned about me
* He wants to keep my love and devotion
* He will do the best for me to bring about my love and awe for Him
* He is active in my life, shaping and molding me in ways that honor and glorify Him
* He will act to draw me to Himself – through His Word, through His Holy Spirit living within my life.

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Expose your idols.

* Consider where you turn when life becomes difficult. Where do you look for satisfaction and joy?
* Identify those as idols and turn from trusting them. Choose to place your trust solely in God.

Give thanks.

* Write a prayer to God, thanking Him for all the ways He has worked in your life.
* Be specific about what He has done for you.

Meet together.

* Meet with one or two other believers of the same gender and talk openly about those areas where you might be tempted to look to someone or something other than God.
* Agree to stand together and support one another in making God the sole object of your devotion and worship.

Clueless Crossword



Are you kidding me? No clues? Well, at least you do have the words. And they are important words in the lesson. If you get stuck go to <https://tinyurl.com/yt4daf3t> The regular crossword is there also … and other great Family Activities

CAREFUL

FEAR

FOLLOW

JEALOUS

LAND

REMEMBER

SERVE

WORSHIP