

*PRAY earnestly before teaching this lesson: IDOLATRY is a very serious topic but needs to be learned*

Unit Title : **WORSHIPPING GOD**  
Lesson 3c : **FORBIDDEN WORSHIP – IDOLATRY (AT PRESENT)**  
Bible Story : **SIMON, THE SORCERER AND JOHN, THE APOSTLE**  
Lesson Scripture : Acts 8:9-11; Rev. 22:8-9; Mat. 6:24; Exo 20:3-4;

**Main Emphasis** : True worship is God-centered.

**Objectives** : By the end of this session, the students should be able to:

1. define idolatry;
2. acknowledge worship is to be addressed to God alone;
3. distinguish worship to the God and to modern false gods;
4. give examples of modern false gods;
5. acknowledge God is a jealous God;
6. determine disobedience to God's commandments is a sin and bears with it consequences;
7. assess their present worship if God-centered;
8. recite the memory verse.

**Words to Remember:**

**IDOLATRY** – worship of idols; extreme admiration, love, or reverence for something or someone; anything that replaces the one, true God.

**IDOL** – an image/representation of a god used as an object of worship; false god.

**FAMOUS** - widely known by many (i.e. celebrity, star, actor, etc.).

**VICES** - practice, behavior, or habit generally considered immoral, sinful, criminal, or rude in the associated society (i.e. smoking, use of illegal drugs, drinking of alcoholic beverages)

**MATERIALISM** - consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than spiritual values.

**SORCERY** - the use of spells, divination, or speaking to spirits; reference to an evil or deceptive practice; the use of magic, especially black magic.

**Memory Verse:**

***Psalm 100***

<sup>1</sup> Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**Pre-Session Activity:** In a piece of paper, write down the common things/idols people worship as of today. At the back, write down the things you like and spend amount of time with or people you look up to or want to be like.

**Lesson Proper** :

Recap: What is the greatest commandment? How do we worship God?

**EXODUS 20:3-4**

**(Let the students read it in English *NIV* and in Filipino *Mabuting Balita*)**

**Modern false gods:** famous personalities, materialism, vices, self, wealth, etc.

#### SIMON, THE SORCERER (ACTS 8)

Sorcery is strongly condemned by God (Deut. 18:9–13) for it is empowered by Satan in an attempt to discredit the power of God. Simon, as Luke states, had amazed the Samaritans “for a long time with his sorcery” (v11), some even declaring that he was “the great Power of God” (v10), a messianic title.

The way how *Samaritans adore Simon and even consider him the great power of God* shows their idolatry to a famous person known for his sorcery. Simon witnessed the Spirit came upon the believers and offered them money and said, Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit” (v19–20). This shows *Simon, desiring something for himself or for his benefit thinking God’s power could be bought, is materialistic.*

#### JOHN, THE APOSTLE (Rev. 19:10; 22:8-9)

John fell down to worship at the feet of the angel but the angel said to him, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!” Worship must not be physical or based on what the eyes see or based on emotions or what such person feels.

God wants a God-centered worship for He is a jealous God. This is a holy jealousy for no one can worship two masters (Matt. 4:10; 6:24). Disobedience to God’s commandments is a sin. Those who worship false gods rather than the true God practice idolatry, which makes God displeased.

We worship God alone in spirit and in truth so our worship to God should not be physical, but spiritual. Worshipping God’s creations is not spiritual for such possess physical form making it a physical worship. A spiritual worship requires faith for our worship should be pleasing to Him.

#### **Life Application :**

In our modern society, many people worship false gods. They intentionally spend more time to the things of this world. They give adoration to people in a wrong way more than to God. A “*fan*” to a person’s physical appearances, abilities and skills rather than a “*fan*” to God’s grace and power is idolatry. They thought it’s fine and does not affect their worship to the true God, but it does.

People lose interest to worship God for God is spirit and not visible. So Christians should be careful on their interests, hobbies, priorities, and people they admire about for these may consume their hearts, hearts that should be of worshipping God and God alone.

Let us put into mind that physical things are temporary and finite but the things of God will remain and will not be in vain (Mat. 6:19-21). That’s why we worship God in spirit and in truth. Also, we should focus on the things of God and be a good example to others in the way we live our lives.

Deut. 5:8 considers those who keep His commandment. Knowing the truth through our bibles, we must make a stand to obey His commandments in spite of what others say, do or practice.

In Rom. 1:21, even though you know God, come to church regularly, pray, read the Bible, etc. still you might not worship and glorify Him with your heart. There are times your worship is meaningless though you know a lot about God and the scriptures. You tend to worship more not the Creator but other than Him. Man always has something or someone to worship, the question is what or who is it. Try to assess your worship if it is God-centered or not.

**Evaluation :**

- 1. What do you mean by idolatry?**
- 2. Based on the stories, what scenario did idolatry take place?**
- 3. What are the examples of false gods at present times?**
- 4. What commandment is violated when you worship idols?**
- 5. What is God's response to idolatry? How come?**
- 6. How do you define true worship? How is your worship? (Expand the question based on actual situations and instances)**

Unit Title: Worshipping God  
Lesson 3c: FORBIDDEN WORSHIP - IDOLATRY (MAN-MADE)  
Memory Verse: Psalm 100  
Lesson Scripture: Exodus 32; Rom. 1:21-25; Exo. 20:3-6; Mat. 4:10

Reminders:

1. **Pre-Session activity:** Take time to read in the class on what they wrote, just don't mention their names. No explanation needed in this activity, just read it.
2. **Background lesson for Teachers:** Should not be included in the discussion of the lesson, but for the teacher's knowledge and thorough study about the story. Also, this part is to be discussed if a student ask the same.
3. **Discussion flow** (story): Short stories about Simon and John, no need for elaboration, stick with what's in the discussion. Focus more on current situations, and life applications. Relate and explain their lists (pre-session) concerning idolatry.
4. Post-Session Activities will not be provided in the lesson plan, unless there's a need to. Activities after the discussion should be provided by the teacher in charge.
5. Please hit all the specific **Objectives** in the discussion - Intermediate/Junior High & Primary.
6. If you have any suggestion or input, please do tell.
7. Discussion to the students depends on the age-level of the class. Just simplify the lesson to maximize time and be creative in teaching.
8. Assistants in charge will do the pre-session activity and memory verse.
9. Be sensitive with the time in order not to miss out any activity.

Programme: Opening prayer/Greetings (3min) ->  
Pre-Session (8min) -> Lesson (15-20min) ->  
Snacks/Memory Verse (10min) -> Post-Session (5-8min)

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