



ARTIFICIAL GOD

ARTIFICIAL EXISTENCE | Week 2 – Sept. 28

* **Leaders** – make sure to leave time for the “your next step” - life application questions this week! They are vitally important!

GROWING CLOSER TOGETHER _____

- 1) Who is one of your biggest heroes; that you greatly admire?
- 2) If you had the ability to invent a device; what sort of device would make your life easier, better, or more enjoyable?

MESSAGE REFLECTION _____

- 1) What was something in this Sunday’s message that stood out to you, inspired you, or challenged you?
- 2) Why do you think the commands about “no other gods” and “do not make idols” are the first two commandments before any others?
- 3) What would happen if we fully obeyed these two commands?
- 4) What do you think are the most powerful “idols” in our 21st century culture? What is an idol **you** have fallen for in the past?
- 5) Of the **Five Fundamental Longings** – which of these five do you feel most strongly? Which of the five do you hunger for the most?
- 6) What are some specific ways devices and the digital world can lead us away from the One True God and into a form of idolatry?
- 7) **READ** Romans 1:25. What are some common ways we can turn something **good** into a **god**?
- 8) What is a habit or practice you’ve heard about that puts boundaries around devices and online consumption?



GOING DEEPER _____

Today we are going to read a narrative about Jacob, who is the grandson of Abraham and the forefather of the nation of Israel.

READ – **Genesis 35:1-15** together

- 1) What jumps out to you in this text that's interesting or challenging?
- 2) Why do you think Jacob's household still had idols among them? Do we fall into the same trap? Why?
- 3) What does Jacob do with the false gods in his household?
- 4) What is Jacob's next step in verse 7 after burying the idols? Why do you think this is this significant?
- 5) How could we, in the same way, not just **destroy** our idols – but **replace** them? What might that look like in *our* discipleship journey?

YOUR NEXT STEP _____

Digital Detox Challenge: Pastor William is challenging us all to apply the spiritual practices of fasting, sabbath rest, and self-denial to our devices. **Where do you need to put boundaries around devices?**

- Digital free times or “zones” in the rhythm of family life?
- Limits on social media, screens, devices? Deleting certain apps?
- Fasting completely from a digital medium that consumes your time? Instagram? Pinterest? YouTube? Netflix? Reddit?
- Self-imposed rules like, “I won't pick up my phone until I've read my Bible.” Or “I won't sleep next to my smartphone.”

Share ideas with each other of ways we might do a “digital detox.”
How will you personally create boundaries? Consider a 10-day commitment or a one-month commitment (to the end of the series).

PRAYING TOGETHER _____

Save some time at the end to share burdens and pray for one another.