



TRADING IDOLS FOR IDEALS

with Jake Kegg

▶ FOCUS VERSES

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:14-16

▶ DISCUSSION

- 1. Discuss the story Jake told about the hard life his uncle led.**
 - a. What was your opinion of Jake's uncle at the beginning of the story, and what were you thinking about him at the end?
 - b. Did the ending surprise you?
- 2. Has anyone else's tragedy or struggles ever prompted you to see God working in the world in an unexpected way?**
- 3. "I don't need to try to justify why someone should believe in Jesus," Jake says, "I should just try to love them the best that I can, because that's what God wants."**
 - a. Talk about that statement for a bit. Are you the kind of person who frequently feels a need to be "right"?
 - b. Has that ever caused conflict or resentment with people you otherwise like, even love, but refuse to agree to or acquiesce with you on a specific thing?



4. How do you deal with disappointment?

- a. Does it make you depressed, worried, angry, resentful?
- b. Do you ever take time to take stock of all the blessings you still have in your life?

5. Jake says “The Lord has been good at showing me what I’m not very good at.”

- a. Have you ever felt like God was showing you, directly or indirectly, an area in your life in which you needed to improve or act more conscientiously?

6. Everyone has failures and inadequacies, and it’s a natural human instinct to try to mask or deny them.

- a. Have your efforts to mask your own failings ever drawn you away from God by causing you to pursue other more worldly things?
- b. Has your search for things that will give you a “spark” ever caused you to “make idols out of everything,” as Jake describes it?
- c. What idols have you been making, and how have they affected your life?

7. Jake says he was able to mask his own nagging self-doubt by convincing himself he was just being competitive. *(See Psalm 139.)*

- a. Has your competitiveness at work, in sports, or even at home ever been a cover for some inadequacy or shame you were secretly feeling?
- b. Were you eventually “unmasked” and forced to come clean about what was really troubling you?

