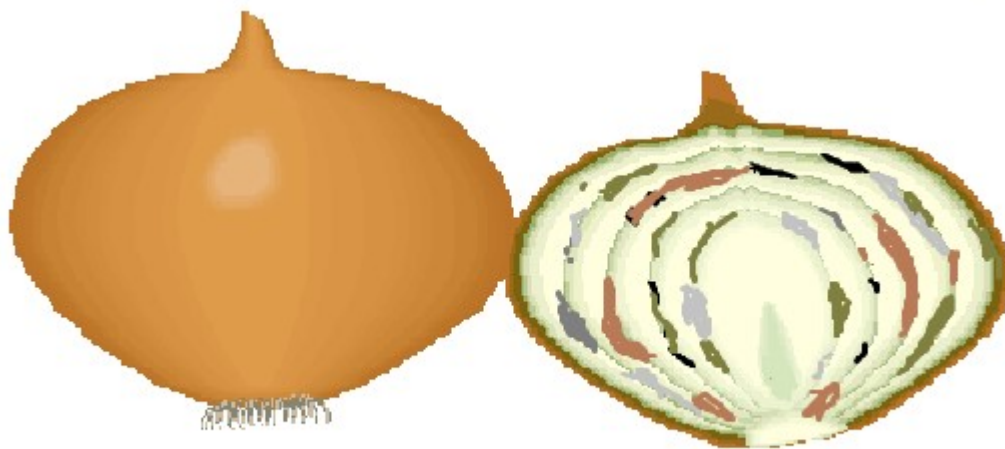


# PEELING THE ROTTEN ONION



## **A Handbook for Ministry With Shrine Adherents**

**Every Child Ministries  
2012 Edition**

# PEELING THE ROTTEN ONION

## Handbook for ministry with former trokosi Recognizing and getting cleansing from the roots of demonic powers

### Note to the teacher—How to use this manual

This section is NOT to be read to the student. This is an explanation to help you the teacher understand how to use this manual.

**How to Begin--**Begin by reading the introduction to the student and explaining it.

**How many topics each teaching session?** The manual is divided by topics that are found in large type. Normally you should cover one topic in each teaching session. If you have only a short time, or if there is much discussion and reaction, you may need to use two teaching sessions for one topic. You should NOT try to do more than one topic in each teaching session.

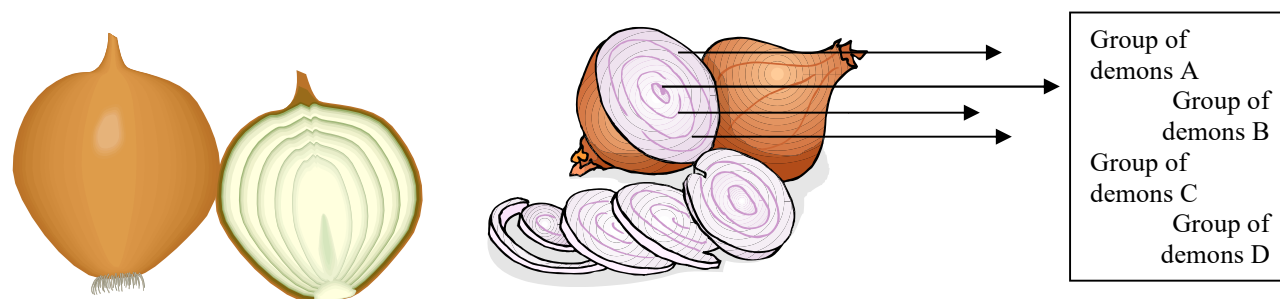
**In what order?** After reading them the Introduction to This Series, the lessons can be taken in any order. Normally you would go through the lessons as they are listed, but if the student is having struggles in a particular area, it is fine to skip directly to that lesson before doing the others.

**The parts of each lesson--** Each lesson is based on one or more short Scripture passages that you will read to the student slowly, expressively, and in their native tongue. With longer passages, you will read the whole thing and then go back and read it again in smaller segments.

Each lesson also contains a series of questions to cause the student to think about the Scripture. If they have trouble answering, read again the portion or phrases of Scripture that give the answer. If they disagree or give their own opinion, just say, “For now we only need to understand what the Scripture says in this verse. Then you can decide what to do with it.”

Some lessons also have an introduction that can just be read to the student and explanations to be read to the student. These explanations help the student to better understand the Bible passage, for example, by telling when and why it was written.

Each lesson concludes with an application asking the student to respond to the lesson. This is called **“What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?”** If the student is ready, encourage her to take these steps. If she is not ready, ask why. Give her time to think it over and assure her of your prayers. Later you can ask her if she is ready to respond. Each time there is a positive response, another layer of demonic influence can be peeled off her life. **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF EACH LESSON**, as hearing the Word of God always demands a response from us. Take your time in getting response on this part of the lesson!



**Breaking demonic influences, layer by layer**—When someone has been involved in idol worship, there are probably many layers of evil spirits attached to their life. Every time the person repents of an evil practice, she can the demons associated with that practice to leave in Jesus’ name. They will begin to go. It is like peeling the layers of an onion off, layer by layer. It may take time, but encourage the woman to keep on peeling. As the onion gets smaller as you peel off each layer, the influence of evil spirits gets less each time she repents and prays for deliverance. One day she will find that she is completely free! (Teacher, you may want to carry an onion to illustrate this truth.)

**If there is rejection of a particular teaching**—Do not try to force acceptance. This is the job of the Holy Spirit and you cannot do it. Try to make sure the person truly understands what the Bible teaches. Try to discover WHY they are rejecting that teaching. Is there some confusion? What is their thinking? Report rejection on your reports so that we can all be praying with you very specifically about these issues.

Also, give time for teaching to soak in. You can go on to something else and come back to anything that is problematic.

Do not become angry, and do not break your relationship with the person. Tell them you still love them and will keep praying for them.

**Keeping records**—It is important that you, the counselor, write down which lessons have been given to each student so that you will know which ones still need to be given. It is also important to write down the response to each lesson.

**Reporting discoveries**—The questions asked in this series may lead to discovery of more information about shrines and shrine practices that may be useful to us as we seek to liberate trokosi and to evangelize shrine practitioners. Please write down and report any information discovered so we can add it to our database of information.

**Teach yourself first**—The Scripture says, “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” (Romans 2:21a) As you study these lessons, you will undoubtedly find parts where you yourself have not yet fully repented and been cleansed. Before you teach another, teach yourself first. Tell God that you are sorry and seek His forgiveness and cleansing. If demonic powers associated with that area are still bothering you, seek help from a Christian friend in praying against and delivering you from their powers in the name of Jesus Christ. When you are free, you will be in a better position to help others.

**Using the book to answer questions or concerns**—In addition to using this manual to give weekly lessons, you can also use it to answer specific questions or concerns. Look up the topic of concern in the Index. Use the Bible verses and questions to guide help people answer their own questions.

**Report other areas of concern**—As you find other questions or other areas of concern which are common amongst former trokosi but are not covered in this book, please report them to us so that we can develop teaching for those areas.

## Introduction to This Series

**Introduction:** There was a young man who took a group of secondary school students on a trip to the Congo River. At first they enjoyed the beauty of the river and they enjoyed swimming in it. But suddenly one of the students got caught in a very strong current. It pulled her into a whirlpool. The water kept going around and around, sucking her down. The young man was a very strong swimmer, so he tried to rescue her. But he, too, got caught in the whirlpool and went down. His body was never recovered.

The Bible warns us about some practices that are like that whirlpool. They make look good in the beginning, but they are deceptive. They suck us in and then they lead to death. They are practices that may look like they come from God, but they come from God's enemy Satan to pull us away from God. We will be looking at some of those destructive practices and learning about the better life that God wants to give us in its place.

If you have been involved in idol worship, there are probably many layers of evil spirits attached to your life. Every time you repent of an evil practice, tell them to leave. They will begin to go. It is like peeling the layers of an onion off, layer by layer. It may take time, but keep peeling. As the onion gets smaller as you peel off each layer, the influence of evil spirits gets less each time you repent and pray for deliverance. One day you will find that you are completely free!

Every woman should feel free to ask for special prayer and special deliverance sessions with the counselors or ECM leaders/pastors as needed. Every believer has exactly the same authority—that of Jesus Christ Himself. However, the Bible does teach that it is good to support one another.

## There are only two sources of supernatural power and wisdom— God's and Satan's

### **Challenge to think about:**

#### **Do you agree with this statement?**

**There are two sources of power, wisdom, etc. available: God, and God's enemy Satan.**

(Teacher's note—Most Africans will agree with this statement, even in the shrines. No matter what the response, simply say, "This is what the Bible teaches. It teaches that there are two sources of power and of wisdom that we as humans can call on. There is the power and wisdom that comes from God, and there is the power and wisdom that comes from God's enemy, Satan.)

**God is the best source:** of power, of wisdom, of knowledge about the future, of protection or safety, of health and life. You know and fear the power of the gods of the shrines. Imagine how much greater is the power of the Creator God who made everything, including all other spirits!

#### **Why is God the best source of power and wisdom?**

Because God's ability is unlimited. Satan's is strictly limited, but he has so much more than we do that it seems great to us. Yet in comparison to God, his power is severely limited and greatly inferior.

**Read Proverbs 21:30:** "There is no wisdom, or understanding, or counsel against the Lord."

#### **Ask: According to this verse;**

- Whose wisdom can stand up against the Lord's? (No one's)
- Whose understanding is greater than the Lord's (No one's)
- Whose counsel is better than the Lord's? (No one's)
  
- So then, would Satan's wisdom and understanding and counsel be better, or would God's be better? (God's would be better.)
  
- So then, would there be any angel or any spirit of any kind whose wisdom and understanding and counsel would be better than God's? (God's would always be better.)

**Read Prov. 21:31:** "The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord."

**Explain:** In Bible times, strong armies used horses in battle. Today we might say guns or trucks are prepared for the day of battle. Deliverance is a word that means getting freed by getting victory over an enemy.

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- When we are oppressed by an enemy, who is the only one who can give us deliverance or victory? (only the Lord)
- Even if we have something very strong like horses, will that help us? (No. Only the Lord can give deliverance.)
- Since deliverance is of the Lord, will it help us to seek other spirits? (No.)
- To seek help at the shrine? (No, because those are other spirits operating there, not the Lord.)
- To seek help from idols? (No, because deliverance is not of idols. Deliverance is of the Lord.)
- To seek help from Saint Mary or other saints? (No, because deliverance is not of Saint Mary or any other saint, but of the Lord.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- From which of the two powers am I seeking help?
- Do I understand that if I am seeking power from any spiritual source other than God, I am seeking it from deceptive spirits that are the enemy of God?
- Everyone involved in the shrines at any level has sought help from God's enemy to one degree or another. Have I repented of this? Have I sought God's forgiveness and cleansing, or will I do so right now?
- From whom will I seek help from now on?

## Who is God's enemy & what is his intention toward us?

**We know that God is all good and intends good toward us His creatures. But what does the Bible tell us about Satan, God's enemy?**

**Read John 10:10 (These are the words of Jesus. "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.")**

- What does Jesus call Satan? (The thief)
- Jesus says that Satan does three things to us. What three things does Satan do or try to do? (Steal, kill, destroy.)
- What does steal mean? (Let them explain. Taking something from someone that belongs to them.)
- What do you think Satan tries to steal from us? (There are many possibilities. Joy, contentment, a good life, even life itself, our friendship with God and much more.)
- What does kill mean? (To end someone's life.)
- What does destroy mean? (To ruin or spoil something)
- What does Satan want to destroy in our lives? (Our happiness, our peace of heart, our homes, our families, our lives—anything and everything he can)
- How is Jesus different from Satan? (Satan comes to kill and destroy our lives but Jesus comes to give us life abundantly.)
- Does Jesus have any bad intention toward us? Does He want anything bad for us? (No, it is Satan who wants bad things for us. Jesus wants us to have abundant life.)
- What is abundant life? (A good life, a life where you are at peace in your heart and with others, a life where you are at peace with God, a life where your needs are met, a life of friendship with God, a life of joy, a life of helping others)
- If we seek Satan and his spirits, what do we get? (We lose what we have because he steals it. We get death and destruction.)
- If we seek the Lord Jesus Christ, what do we get? (Abundant life, a good life.)

**When you were participating in the rituals of the shrine, whose help were you seeking—God's or Satan and his spirits?**

When you were in the shrine, you learned many practices that in one way or another involve the seeking of hidden knowledge that God has not revealed, or superhuman power that God has not given.

The people that once lived in the land of Canaan worshipped many of the A those worshipped in the shrines. They may have had different names, but they were the same. For examples, one of their gods was fish on the bottom and human on top. What spirit is worshipped in the shrines that is half fish and half human? (Mamiwata)



Because the land was filled with idols, it was also filled with the abominable practices that those spirits led the people to do. These practices were so sickening to God that He told the people of Israel to destroy them all and to destroy all their idols.

**Read Leviticus 18:24-25:**

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Does God want His people to follow the customs of those who worship idols? (No, He says “Do not defile yourselves with any of these things”.)
- What will these things do to us if we practice them? (They will defile us.)
- What does defile mean? (It means to make dirty or to ruin.)
- Is it OK to do some of these things if we also go to church? (No, God warns us not to defile ourselves with any of these things.)
- What did these practices do to the nations that first inhabited the land of Canaan? (Defiled them)
- What did God do to those nations because they defiled themselves with these practices? (Cast them out of the land.)
- These practices defiled the people and also what else? (Even the land)
- Why did God punish the land? (Because it was defiled by the iniquity or terrible sin of its inhabitants.)
- What very descriptive way did God tell about the land getting rid of its inhabitants? (He said the land would vomit out its inhabitants because of their sin)
- What advice does this verse give you about the practices you learned in the shrines? (I should not defile myself with those practices.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Tell your counselor what you have learned about God’s enemy, Satan.
- What part was new or surprising to you?
- In what ways do you see the hand of Satan working in the shrines?
- Tell your counselor one thing you need to change as a result of this lesson.
- How would you like your counselor to pray for you as a result of this lesson?

**Counselor, conclude with a time of prayer according to the expressed needs of the woman or women you are counseling. Give them a warm hug and let them know you will continue praying for them.**

## Where did deceptive spirits come from?

**Read: John 1:1-3, 14a** 1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” 14a “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who existed in the very beginning? (The Word)
- The Word was with whom? (The Word was with God)
- Who was the Word? (The Word was God)
- Who made all things? (The Word, who was also God)
- Is there anything at all that the Word did not make? (No, without Him nothing was made that was made)
- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This verse makes it clear that the Word was whom? (Jesus, who left His eternal home in heaven and became flesh. That is, He was born in this world as a human being even though He was God from all eternity.)
- If Jesus made all things, did He also make or create the angels? The spirits? (Yes, he made all things including all angels and all spirits.)

**Read Colossians 1:16:** 16 “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- When it says “by Him all things were created,” who is it talking about? (About Jesus)
- Jesus created all things in what two places? (In heaven and on earth)
- In heaven, besides God and besides people, who else is there? (Angels are there)
- So who created the angels? (Jesus did. He created all things in heaven.)
- Jesus created all things visible and invisible. What do these two words mean? (He created all things we can see, that is, things that are physical. He also created all things we cannot see, that is, things that are spiritual. He created all spirits.)
- Angels were given different levels of authority and responsibility—different jobs. How does this verse describe those levels of authority amongst the angels? (Thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers)
- Who created the angels or spirits at every level of authority? (Jesus—all things were created through Him)
- For whom were the angels and spirits created? (For Jesus)
- Since Jesus created the angels and spirits, were they good or bad when He created them? (They were good when He created them.)

**Read Ezekiel 28:12b-17:**

...12b You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God... 14 You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

**Explain:** We know this passage is talking about a high angel, because it says, “You were the anointed cherub who covers”. Cherubs were very high angels who stood in the presence of God.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Was this high angel flawed in any way when God made him? (No, he was the seal of perfection.)
- Was he lacking in wisdom when God made him? (No, he was full of wisdom when God made him.)
- Was he ugly when God made him? (No, he was perfect in beauty when God made him.)
- This angel was in Eden, the garden of God. Besides Adam and Eve, do you remember any other being that was in Eden? (The snake or serpent that spoke to Eve. If the story is not familiar, read it from Genesis 3:1-6.)
- What seems to have happened in the garden? (The high angel spirit entered into the body of the snake and caused it to speak to Eve.)
- This high angel was created good and beautiful, but what happened? (Iniquity or awful sin was found in him.)

**To find out more about this angel who began good but became bad, Read Isaiah 14:12-15a:**

12“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. 15a Yet you shall be brought down...”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What happened to this angel? (He fell from heaven.)
- What was his name? (Lucifer, son of the morning.)
- What did he do to the nations? (He weakened the nations.)
- The beginning of this high angel’s sin seems to be something he said in his heart. What wicked thing did he say in his heart? (I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”
- What phrase is repeated four times? (I will.)
- Angels were created to serve God. Do these words show an attitude of submission to God? (No, they show self will and pride.)
- What did this angel aspire to do? (To be like God, or to be equal with God.)
- Because of this rebellious attitude, what happened to him? (He was brought down.)
- Think about the verses from Ezekiel. What was the iniquity or sin that was found in this angel? (He rebelled against God, wanting to be like God.)

**Read Luke 10:18:** (Jesus speaking) “And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’ ”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What did Jesus say He saw? (He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.)
- We know that the angel who fell was a cherub called Lucifer. What name does Jesus give him here? (Satan)

**Read Revelation 12:3-4a:** “...behold, a great, fiery red dragon...his tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What is Satan called here? (a great fiery dragon)
- What did his tail draw or pull in? (A third of the stars)
- What happened to them? (They were thrown to the earth)
- How many were taken in by Satan? (One third, or one in three)
- If one third were taken in by Satan, how many angels stayed true to God? (Two thirds, or two out of three)

**Read Revelation 12:7-9:** “7And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who was the leader of God’s good angels? (Michael)
- Who were Michael and his angels fighting against? (the serpent called the devil or Satan)
- Who was cast out of heaven? (the dragon called the serpent or the devil or Satan and his angels)
- What are all the names we have learned for Satan? (The anointed cherub who fell, Lucifer, Satan, the devil, the dragon, the serpent)
- Was he alone in his rebellion against God? (No, a third of the angels followed him.)
- What was their job? (To deceive the whole world. This is why we call them lying or deceptive spirits.)

**Read John 8:44:** (Jesus speaking to the Jews who were trying to kill Him) “You are of your father the devil...He ...does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Is there any truth in Satan? (No he is a liar.)
- Who is the father of lies? (Satan)
- When Satan or one of his angelic spirits speaks, would we expect them to tell the truth? (No). Can we trust what they say? (No, they are lying spirits.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Do you think you can trust the spirits who speak in the shrines? Why or why not?
- What if a shrine spirit promised something good. Could you trust it then?
- What if it promised something you really wanted? Maybe to be rich or to go to the U.S.? Or to be healed and never to be sick again? (Answer: You cannot trust it because it is a lying spirit. It has to promise good things while giving you bad things. If it gives something good, that something comes at a very high price, like slavery to demonic powers or even eternal damnation.)
- Have you sought God's forgiveness for listening to the lying spirits? If you are not sure, you can do so now.
- Jesus said, "I am the truth." Will you ask Him to be your Saviour? If you have not yet done so, are you ready to put your trust in Him? If not, what holds you back?
- If you have received Jesus and repented of listening to lying spirits, you are ready for deliverance. Tell those lying spirits to leave you now in the name of Jesus. If they try to return to harass you, keep on telling them to leave. If you need help, ask your counselor to pray with you and for you.

## What do those deceptive spirits do now?

**Read Revelation 9:20:** “they...did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- When people worship idols, what are they really worshipping? (Demons, or evil spirits)
- Would you like to worship demons? (No.)
- Do you think most people who worship idols realize that they are really worshipping demons? (No.)
- Why not? (Those are lying spirits. They deceive people.)
- What is one of the things deceptive spirits are doing now? (Leading people into idolatry, seeking worship themselves, seeking to pull worship away from God.)

**Read I Timothy 4:1:** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- In the Bible the Spirit is capitalized. Why did they do that? (To show that it is not talking about just any spirit but about the Holy Spirit of God.) It is the Holy Spirit of God who is telling us that some will depart from the faith.
- What will happen in the latter times? (Some will depart from the faith.)
- Who will they listen to instead of God? (They will give heed to deceiving spirits.)
- When they give heed to deceiving spirits, will they hear the truth or will they hear lies? (Deceiving spirits will lie to them.)
- Doctrines are teachings about God. Whose doctrines will they listen to? (They will give heed to doctrines of demons.)
- Will demons tell the truth about God? (No. Demons are liars and deceivers.)
- Where does false teaching come from? (From deceptive spirits)

**Read Revelation 16:14:** “For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and to the whole world...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What can spirits of demons sometimes do? (Perform signs)
- What kinds of signs do you think these are? (Probably amazing things like miracles)
- Who are they going out to? (Kings of the earth and the whole world)
- Besides seeking worship and telling lies and creating false doctrine, what else are demon spirits doing right now? (Performing signs or miracles)
- Why do you think they would do that? (To cause people to follow them)

**Read Matthew 4:1 3a:** “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... Now when the tempter came to Him...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Who led Jesus into the wilderness? (The Spirit or the Holy Spirit of God)
- Why did he go there? (To be tempted by the devil)
- What is another thing the devil is doing right now? (Tempting people)
- What does it mean to tempt someone? (To put it into their mind to do wrong or to try to get them to do wrong)
- Jesus was tempted, but did he ever do wrong? (No, He never did wrong. See the last part of Hebrews 4:15. “He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”)
- What is Satan called here? (The tempter)

**Read Revelation 12:10b:** “for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What is Satan called in this verse? (The accuser of our brethren)
- To whom did Satan accuse the brethren? (to God)
- How often did he accuse them? (day and night, that is, constantly)
- What kind of attitude does this show Satan has toward God’s people? (An attitude of wanting to hurt or destroy them.)
- What is another thing Satan is doing right now? (Accusing God’s people before God)

**Read I John 2:1:** “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- If we sin, who is our advocate or lawyer who will defend us before God? (Jesus Christ)
- If we have really sinned, what defense can he make? (He shed His blood to pay the penalty for our sin.)
- Do believers need to fear Satan’s accusations? (No, because Jesus, God’s own Son, is our Advocate.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- How have Satan and his demons been active in my life? What have they been up to?
- How has he tempted me to worship idols?
- What teachings has he confused me about?
- What sins does he make look especially tempting to me?

- Do I have real sin in my life that he could use to accuse me to God?
- What will I do to recognize his work in my life in the future, so that I might not fall into his traps?



## Any spirit that seeks worship is not a spirit of God but is an evil spirit.

Since there are many spirits in the world, how can we know which spirits are of God and which are of the enemy? One of the principles we need to understand is that any spirit who seeks or accepts worship is not a spirit of God. This is because only God is worthy of worship, and a primary purpose of God's good angels is to bring Him glory and direct worship to Him. On the other hand, the primary purpose of Satan was to draw worship away from God and to himself.

**Read Matthew 4:8-10:** 8“Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ 10 Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan!’ For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What was one of the temptations Satan presented to Jesus? (The devil would give Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory if Jesus would only fall down and worship him.)
- Did Jesus fall to this temptation? No, He told Satan to get out of there.
- What was the reason for Jesus' refusal to worship Satan? (The Scripture said we should worship the Lord our God and we should serve only Him.)

**Read Revelation 22:8-9:** “ 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.’ ”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who fell down to worship before the angel? (John, the one who was writing, was admitting what happened.)
- Why did he fall down to worship before the angel? (Because the angel had shown him such wonderful things)
- Did the angel accept his worship? (No, the angel said ‘See that you do not do that.’)
- Why did the angel refuse to accept his worship? (Because he was only a fellow servant of God, and only God is worthy of our worship.)
- What did the angel tell John to do? (Worship God)
- What will a true angel of God do if we true to worship it? (It will refuse our worship and direct our worship to God alone.)

**Read Hebrews 1: 6:** “But when He (God the Father) brings the firstborn (Jesus) into the world, He says, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What did God the Father tell all His angels to do when He sent His Son Jesus into the world as a baby? (He told all the angels of God to worship Him.)
- What does this show about Jesus? (It shows He is really God, because only God can receive worship.)
- What does it show about the good angels of God? (They are to give worship to God, not to take worship to themselves.)

**Read Deuteronomy 32:17a:** “They sacrificed to demons, not to God”

- These people were making sacrifices, so why was God not happy with them? (They were offering sacrifices to demons, but they should have been offering sacrifices to God.)
- When a sacrifice is offered to an idol or to another spirit like what are called the “lesser gods,” who is it really offered to? (To demons, not to God)
- Any spirit other than the Lord God who accepts sacrifice, what is it? (A demon)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- When have I worshiped spirits that were not of God?
- Have I asked God’s forgiveness for what I have done in the past?
- Have I told those spirits to leave me?
- Have I got rid of every object that somehow tied me to those spirits?
- Am I ready to stop doing that and to give all my worship and love to God from now on?
- Will I ask His help to be faithful in this decision, and thank Him for my deliverance?
- How might I be tempted to return to those spirits in the future?
- How can I prepare myself to be faithful to God when that temptation comes?
- Who might try to get me to worship other spirits again?
- What will I tell them when they try to get me to do that?
- If I have worshiped spirits other than God, those evil spirits have probably attached themselves to me somehow. Will I now tell them to leave in the name of Jesus Christ?

(Counselor, if you have not yet begun the process of deliverance, you should begin to do so at this point with every woman who is willing to turn from idols to Christ.)

## God wants all our worship and love

### Introduction to the lesson:

Some people say that since God made all the spirits, He must want us to call on them. He must have made them for that purpose. They say that God Himself is too far away and does not want to be bothered with our prayers. They say He does not really mind sharing our worship with the lesser spirits that He made. Have you heard this kind of thinking?

What does the Bible say about this?

**Read Exodus 20:1-3:** And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the Lord your God, ... You shall have no other gods before Me.”

### Ask: According to these verses:

- Who was speaking in these verses? (The Lord God)
- Did God want them to also have other gods besides Him? (No, they were to have no other gods)
- Who was to be their only God? (the Lord God)
- Do these verses sound like God is willing for us to share our worship with other gods in addition to Him? (No, He wants to be our only God.)

**Read Deuteronomy 4:35:** “To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What did God show to His people? (That He Himself was God)
- Besides Him, how many others are God? (None)
- So although people may call other spirits “gods” or “lesser gods,” are they really God? (No, only the Lord God is a real god.)
- What then are the other spirits? (Just spirits that God made, not gods)
- Why does God want us to worship Him? (He is the only true God)

**Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5:** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

### Ask: According to these verses:

- How many Gods are there? (One.)
- Who is He? (the Lord God)
- What does He want from us? (All our love. He wants us to love Him with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength.)
- Is God willing to share our love with other gods or with idols? (No, He is the only true God, so He wants all our love.)
- Have you ever thought of LOVING God before? This is what He wants from you.

**Read John 4:23:** (Jesus speaking) “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What did Jesus say the Father was seeking? (Worshipers to worship Him in spirit and in truth)
- Since God is seeking worshipers, does this imply that He wants our worship? (Yes, it does. He seeks our worship because He wants our worship—all of it.)

**Think about it:**

God says He wants all our love. Is He worthy of our love? What do you think?

Why is He worthy of our love? (They may think of ideas like He made us, He gives us air to breathe, He gives us the earth and rain so we can have food, He gives us life, etc.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Ask God’s forgiveness for not loving Him as you should.
- Tell God you want to love Him & ask His help to love Him as He wants.
- Despite the hardships of your life, think about all the good things God has done for you. Thank Him every day for every good thing to can think of.
- If you have worshiped, loved or served spirits other than God, those evil spirits have probably attached themselves to you. Tell them to leave and keep on telling them to leave in the name of Jesus Christ, and Jesus will deliver you from their power.

## God wants us to seek Him because He wants to help us

**Read Matthew 7:9-11:** “Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Do parents want good gifts or bad gifts for their children? (Good gifts)
- Jesus asked, if a son asks for bread, will his father give him a stone. Will he? (No)
- Why not? (The father loves his son and wants good for him)
- If he asks for a fish, will the father give him a snake? (No)
- Why not? (The snake might hurt him, but the fish would help him because he could eat it. The father gives good gifts that help and do not harm his children.)
- Jesus said that we as human parents are evil, that is, we are sinners. Yet we still know how to give good gifts to our children. What does this say about God? (HOW MUCH MORE will our Father in heaven give good things to those to ask Him for help)
- According to Jesus, is there any truth to the idea that God is too busy or too far away to help His people? (No, he will help us far more than our earthly parents.)
- According to these verses, when we need help, what should we do? (Ask God for help because He wants to help us.)

**Read Isaiah 8:19a,b:** “And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter’, should not a people seek their God?”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Who should we seek? (A people should seek their God)
- Who is your God?
- Who will you seek?

**Read Deuteronomy 4:29:** “...you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him, if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- If we seek God, will we find Him? (Yes, if we seek Him with all our heart and soul)
- Is God hiding from us? (No, we will find Him if we truly seek Him)
- Is God refusing to help us? (No, He will help us if we truly seek Him)

### What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?

- What are some of the most important ways you need God’s help?
- Will you seek His help in these things?

- Will you believe that what He gives you is the best—better than anything you could have gotten from the enemy?
- If you have asked anything from any spirit other than God, you have opened yourself up to the power and influence of that evil spirit. Tell those spirits to leave now in the name of Jesus Christ because you are seeking help from God only from now on.

## God has given believers in Jesus power over demonic spirits

**Read Matthew 17:18:** “And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- How did Jesus cure the boy who had a demon? (Jesus rebuked the demon)
- What happened then? (The demon came out of him and the boy was cured.)
- How do we know that Jesus had power or authority over demonic spirits? (He demonstrated or showed that power by casting out demons.)

**Read Luke 9:1:** “Then He (Jesus) called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- To whom did Jesus give His power and authority over demons? (To His disciples)
- How many demons did the disciples have authority over? (Over all demons)

**Read Luke 10:17-19** 17“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Thy name.’ 18 And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.’”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- In the verse we just read, Jesus sent out His 12 disciples and gave them authority over demons. Later He sent out a bigger group of disciples—He sent out 70. When they returned to report to Jesus, what were they especially happy about? (Even the demons were subject to them in Jesus’ name.)
- How does Jesus remind the disciples that Satan’s kingdom cannot stand? (He says He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.)
- They have already discovered that they have authority over demons. How does Jesus reaffirm this to them? (He tells them they have authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy.)
- Who was the serpent? (Satan)
- What did they have authority over? (All the power of the enemy)
- What can hurt them of the enemy’s power? (Nothing)
- Does this mean we should try to pick up scorpions or poisonous snakes? (No)
- What does it mean, then? (As we go in Jesus’ name, we can count on His power and authority to protect us from all the enemy’s power.)



**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What evil spirits have been bothering you?
- What powers of the enemy have you been fearing?
- Do you know that you have welcomed Jesus so that you have His power in you?  
(If not, what is to stop you from welcoming Him right now?)
- Have you been using your authority as a believer to destroy the work of the enemy in your own life?
- In the lives of your children?
- How would you like your counselor to pray with you today about these issues?
- If any evil spirit has been troubling you, tell it to leave not in the authority of Jesus Christ.

## God wants us to worship Him instead of worshipping idols

### Read Deuteronomy 12:29-32

**29** “When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, **30** take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise,’ **31** You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods, for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

**Explain:** God wrote this to His people when they were about to go into the land God had promised to give them. God had told them to destroy the wicked people who were living there and to take their land.

### Now go back and read it phrase by phrase:

“When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What was God going to do to the nations that worshipped idols? (Cut them off from their land)
- What were God’s people going to do? (Displace the idol worshippers and live in their land)

**Read again:** **30** take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them , after they are destroyed from before you

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What did God warn His people to be careful about? (Not to get ensnared by the idols.)
- If God was concerned to warn them not to get ensnared, doesn’t this imply that He thought they might easily get ensnared? (Yes, that’s why He warned them.)
- What does it mean to get ensnared? (A snare is a trap like a trap to catch an animal. The animal walks along unsuspectingly and gets trapped in it. Ensnared, then, means to get trapped.)
- How could God’s people get ensnared? (By following the practices of the idol worshippers)

**Read again:** “and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? ? I also will do likewise,”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- Does the Lord want His people to pray to other gods or seek the help of other gods? (No, God warned them not to do that. He said DO NOT inquire after their gods.)

- Does the Lord want His people to follow the practices of the idol worshippers? (No. God says we should NOT ask how those nations served their gods. God didn't like the way they worshipped. He hated it, so He doesn't want His people to follow it.)
- When you are tempted to ask something of the shrines, what three words from this verse do you need to remember?: (DO NOT INQUIRE)

**Read again: 31** “You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Does God want His people to worship Him by consulting idols? (No. He says we should not worship Him in that way)
- Isn't it OK to worship idols if we say we are worshipping God through them? (No, God tells us not to worship Him in that way.)

**Read again:** “for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods, for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- How did God feel about the way they worshipped their gods? (He said it was abomination, or an awful, sickening thing, and He hated it.)
- What one practice did the Lord give as an example of something He especially hated? (Burning sons and daughters in the fire)
- What shrine practices do you know of that are destructive to children?

**Read again:** Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Where does God want us to get our ideas about how to worship? (He wants us to observe what He commands us.)
- How much of what God tells us should we obey? (All of it)
- What should we avoid doing to God's commands? (Adding to them or taking away from them.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What idols have you been involved in worshipping? (Counselor, make a list of these for deliverance purposes.)
- Have you thoroughly repented from this, or is there something you still need to confess to God?
- Do you still have any idols hidden away? If so, will you let your counselor destroy them, if they belong to you?

- Have you commanded the spirits of those idols to go out of you and to leave you alone in the name of Jesus?
- After you stop worshiping idols, have you used every opportunity to worship the true and living God?

## God wants us to ask Him about anything we need to know, rather than consulting spirits for fortune telling or divination

**Read Deuteronomy 18:9, 12, and 14:** “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations....For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you...For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

**Read again:** 9 “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- When was this verse given to God’s people? (Before they came into the land God had promised them, because it says “when you come into the land.” So it’s obvious they had not yet come in.)
- What does God warn them not to do? (They should not follow the abominations of those nations, that is, the nations who lived there before them.)
- What word (or maybe it’s a phrase in Ewe) shows how God felt about the practices of those nations? (He calls it abomination. That’s a very strong word that means their practices were horrible, sickening, disgusting—like vomit.)

**Read again:** ...12”.For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- The verse we just read said the practices of those people were abomination to the Lord. This verse says that what else is abomination to Him? (All who do these things. Practicing idol worship makes the people themselves abominable before God.)
- Some traditional leaders defend the practice of worshipping idols. But according to this verse, who decides whether it is right or wrong? (the Lord. These practices are abomination to the Lord, regardless of what anybody else says or thinks)
- What is the reason God was going to drive out the idol-worshipping people from that land? (Because of these abominations. That is, because of their idol worship.)

**Read again:** 14 “ For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- In this verse, God gives an example of one of the abominable practices associated with their idol worship. What was that practice? (Listening to soothsayers and diviners)
- Soothsayers are fortune tellers or those who consult spirits other than God to try to tell what will happen in the future or to try to give someone advice about what to do. Is there anyone in our society who tries to do something like that? Who?

- What was God going to do to those nations who listened to soothsayers? (Take their land away from them and give it to God's people)
- Why do you think God does not want His people to listen to soothsayers? (God wants us to seek His help. He is honored to help His people. Also, remember that other spirits seek only to steal, to kill and to destroy. When we seek their help, we open up ourselves to their destructive powers.)
- What are diviners? (Those who try to get secret knowledge by throwing down bones or shells or nuts and asking the spirits to give an answer by the way the things fall on the ground. This process is called divination.)
- Did God approve of diviners or divination? (No, that practice was one of the reasons He was taking the idol worshippers from their land.)
- Are there diviners in this society? Who are they?
- Have you seen divining tables in some of the shrines or villages? (Usually they are round, made of cement with a design of shells embedded in them.)
- Both soothsayers and diviners have one thing in common. Who are they both calling on for help rather than God? (On other spirits)
- Does God want His people to follow these practices or to seek help in a different manner? (God has not appointed these practices for us. We have God to help us, and He is the greatest power there is. Besides that, He wants to help us.)
- What are some ways people get involved in divination? (Doing it, seeking a priest to do it for them, encouraging a family member to do it)

### **What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- For what purposes have you sought fortune tellers or diviners?
- Do you now see this as sin? Have you sought God's forgiveness and cleansing?
- Have you rebuked any spirits that might have come to you through divination or through seeking information from the shrines or the fortunetellers?
- Is anything still bothering you related to these practices? What?
- What prayer help do you need from your counselor?
- What needs will you now bring to God?

## God wants our whole hearts

**Read Deuteronomy 29:16-18:** “For you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold, so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood”

**Read again:** “For you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- God’s people had been slaves in Egypt and God had delivered them. Then they traveled through many idol-worshipping nations on their way to the land God was giving them. What did they see in Egypt and in these other nations? (Their abominations and their idols. The abominations were the practices they used in worshipping the idols.
- What were the idols of those nations made of? (Wood and stone and silver and gold)

**Read again:** “so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations”/

- God warned them not to let what happen? (Not to let their heart turn away from the Lord to go and serve those idol gods)
- Can we serve God and worship idols at the same time? (No. When we worship idols it shows that our hearts have turned away from God.)

**Read again:** and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood”

- If their heart turned away from God to serve idols, what would that lead to? (Bitterness, not happiness, not joy)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- In what ways have you failed to give God your whole heart?
- Have you sought His forgiveness and cleansing?
- What parts of your life do you still need to give over to God?
- How can your counselor pray for you today?

- If evil spirits have attached to you because you have not loved God wholeheartedly, you can tell them to leave you now in the name of Jesus Christ.



## God wants us to trust His plan for our lives rather than to be involved in astrology

If in your heart you want to worship and serve God, there may be many bad practices that you learned in the shrine that need to be unlearned. Astrology is one of those specific practices that God hates and forbids. They are not good for God's people, and they do not honor God. You may find many that you have been involved with. As you learn what God says about it, ask His forgiveness and decide to stay away from that wicked thing. Seek God instead, because His purpose for you is always good and He is always willing to help you.

### **One of those practices that God hates and forbids is Astrology.**

Astrology is worshipping and seeking help from things in the sky, like the sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, thunder, lightning, or anything we see or hear in the sky. Astrology includes ordering our lives or making decisions according to the positions of the stars. Some astrologers give monthly reports telling people what to do that month based on the position of the stars in the sky. These astrologers are called monthly prognosticators.

**Read Isaiah 47:13:** "You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you."

### **Ask: According to this verse:**

- God said His people were weary or tired. Why were they so weary? (Because they had been seeking help from so many other counselors but not from the Lord)
- They sought a multitude of counsels. What does that mean? (Counsel from many sources, but not from the right source, that is from many spirits but not from God)
- What were three kinds of so-called helpers they were seeking? (Astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators)
- Were these getting help from God or from the stars? (Not from God but from the stars)
- Does God seem to be pleased with this? (No. He says He is going to punish them. All their astrologers will not be able to save them or help them.)
- Stars are things God made. Should we worship the thing God made or should we worship the God who made them? (We should worship the God who made them.)

Have you heard of anyone consulting the sun, moon or stars in this culture? Who? Have you heard of anyone worshipping the sun, moon or stars? Who?

### **What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Have you yourself ever worshipped or called on the sun, moon, stars, or the spirit called the thunder god for help? If not, God wants you to continue to stay away from that. He wants you to worship Him alone.
- If you have been involved in any way, you may have permitted deceiving spirits to come into your life to disturb you. You can refuse them now and

tell them to go away in Jesus' name. You can turn away from worshipping these things God made. You can begin to worship and love and serve the Creator, our great God and Savior.

- What do you need to do right now?
- Tell any spirits associated with the sun, moon, stars or planets to leave you now in the name of Jesus Christ who made them all.

## God wants us to worship Him rather than to burn incense to idols or to worship them

**Read: Jeremiah 1:16:** “I will utter my judgments against them concerning all their wickedness, because they have forsaken Me, burned incense to other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What was God going to utter against them? (His judgments)
- If God’s judgment is against us, are we getting a reward or a punishment? (A punishment if it is against us)
- What is God judging? (all their wickedness)
- Why is He angry with them? (They had forsaken God)
- What does it mean to forsake someone? (To turn away from him, to leave him)
- What two things did they do that showed God that they had forsaken Him? (They burned incense to other gods, and they worshipped idols that they had made themselves.)
- Does God approve of making images ourselves and then worshipping them? (No, it will bring God’s judgment)
- Does God approve of burning incense to idols? (No, it will bring His judgment)

**Read: Jeremiah 11:12-14:** 12“Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble. 13 For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah, and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal. 14 So do not pray for this people, or lift up a prayer for them, for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.”

**Explain:** This is written in a time when God is about to bring judgment on the people of Israel because of their idol worship. He has warned them and they have not repented so now He has decided to bring judgment on them. When this trouble comes, they will first call on their idols gods. The idols will not be able to help them, so later they will call on God, but since they didn’t call on Him first, He will refuse to hear them.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- When trouble comes, who would the people call on first? (The gods to whom they offer incense, that is, the idols)
- How much help will they get from the idols? (None. They will not save them at all in the day of trouble.)
- How many different gods were they worshipping? (Many. Every city seemed to have its own god.)

- In your culture, do different cities, towns, villages, clans and tribes have their own gods? What are the gods of the place where you live?
- How many streets of Jerusalem were having idols? (All of them. They have filled the place with idols.)
- What does God call their god Baal? (That shameful thing)
- How were they worshipping Baal? (Building altars and burning incense to him)
- What part of God's judgment was even worse than the trouble that was coming? (God would no longer help them. Since they wanted help from idols, let the idols help them. But of course the idols can't help them, so there is no help left.)
- What could happen to us if we refused God's warnings and keep on worshipping idols? (God could give up on us and refuse to help us.)

### **What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What about you? Have you worshipped idols that you knew were made by human hands? Have you offered incense to idols or sang or bowed as incense was offered?
- If you have, you probably did not know that you were inviting evil spirits to attach themselves to your life. You might not even have realized that you were offending God.
- But now you know. Will you stop any of these practices you are still involved in?
- Will you tell God you are sorry and ask His forgiveness?
- Will you give all your love and worship to the One who made you? If you will, then:
  - 1. Name what you have done and ask God to forgive you.**
  - 2. Tell any spirits from that practice to leave you in Jesus' name.**
  - 3. Ask a counselor to pray for you and agree with their prayer.**
  - 4. Stop worshipping idols. Start loving and worshipping the One True and Living God.**
  - 5. If the evil spirits come back, keep on refusing them and telling them to leave in Jesus' name.**

**Note to the counselor:** Remind the student of the illustration of peeling off layers of the onion. If they have been involved in idol worship, there are probably many layers of evil spirits attached to their life. Each layer is attached to a particular practice that gave permission for those spirits to operate in the person's life. Every time they repent of an evil practice, they can tell the spirits associated with that practice to leave. They will begin to go. It is like peeling the layers of an

onion off, layer by layer. It may take time, because the practices of idolatry may have given many permissions for demons to operate, but encourage the student to keep learning, keep repenting and keep peeling. Just as the onion gets smaller as you peel off each layer, so the influence of evil spirits gets less each time they repent and pray for deliverance. One day they will find that you are completely free by the power of Jesus Christ!

## God wants us to totally trust Him rather than to be involved in magic or in using charms (amulets or talismans)

“The angel of the Lord encamps round about them that fear Him, and delivers them.” Psalm 34:7

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” Psalm 46:1

God wants to help us and take care of us. He wants us to totally trust Him.

Magic is doing anything that cannot be done in the natural realm, not by the power of God, but by the power of Satan and his demons. (When God does the supernatural, we call it a miracle.) Remember what you know about the nature and the intent of demons. They are deceptive spirits who have great power (although far less than God’s power). They can do supernatural things, but their intent is never to help us, but always to hurt and destroy. Their intention is to cause us to trust in them rather than in God and His good plan.

**Read Ezekiel 13:18, 20:** “18...Thus says the Lord God, woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves...20 Therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What were the women sewing on their sleeves? (Magic charms)
- What was the purpose of these magic charms? (To hunt souls like birds)
- What was God’s response to these women? (Woe to them)
- If someone says “woe” to you, is this a sign of approval, or of judgment? (Of judgment)
- What did God say He would do to those magic charms? (Tear them from their arms.)

**Read Acts 19:18-19:** “18And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds, 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- This verse tells us about a time when many people were believing in Jesus as their Savior. What did many of those who had believed do? (Confessed and told their deeds)
- Some of them had practiced magic before they believed in Jesus. What did they do? (Brought all their magic books together and burned them while everyone watched.)
- Were these just cheap, valueless books? (No, they were very valuable. They were worth 50,000 pieces of silver.

**Explain:** Magic charms are sometimes used to do harm to others and sometimes used with the intention of protecting someone. But even when the charm is meant to protect someone, it is a trap. Remember that the spirits giving power to the charm are deceiving spirits who mean to harm us. They may tell you that a charm is for protection, when in reality it can be that very thing that draws demonic powers to you.

### **What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What items do you still have that are associated with magic or good luck? As long as you keep them, you are attracting demons to yourself and your home. Destroy all those items or ask your counselor to help you do it. Rebuke them and tell God that from now on, you are depending on Him.
- When you have rid yourselves of everything to do with magic or good luck, you can now tell the evil spirits associated with all that to leave in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Remember to pray constantly, bringing your needs to God.

## God wants us to pray to Him about our needs, rather than trying to get them through using enchantment

**Read:** Philippians 4:6 “Don’t worry about anything, but pray about everything. With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God.” (CEV)

**Ask:**

- What should Christians worry about? (We should not worry about anything.)
- What should we do instead of worrying? (Pray about everything.)
- What kind of hearts should we have as we pray? (Thankful hearts)

**Read:** Isaiah 47:9-11 “Your magic powers and charms will suddenly fail... You hid behind evil like a shield and said, “No one can see me!” You were fooled by your wisdom and your knowledge; you felt sure that you alone were in full control. But without warning, disaster will strike— and your magic charms won’t help at all.” (CEV)

**Ask:**

- Those who do not know God often trust in magic charms and fetishes to help them. What does God say will harm to those charms? (They will suddenly fail.)
- Were people making charms openly or secretly? (Secretly, thinking no one could see them.)
- They thought they were wise and had knowledge, but what did God say? (They were fooled.)
- They felt they were in control of everything, but what did God say would happen? (Without warning, disaster would strike.)
- When disaster struck, what help would their charms be to them? (None at all.)
- People sometimes make charms to make someone love them or to make themselves do well on an exam, or to succeed in business. What does God say about those charms? (They will suddenly fail.)
- Who is the only one who will never fail?

### **What should you do as a result of this lesson?**

- Do you still have any charms that you are hiding somewhere?
- Are you willing to give them up now and begin seeking God’s help for your needs?
- After you have destroyed and rebuked those charms, will you ask God to forgive you and to help you trust in Him?



- Will you command any spirits that were associated with those charms to leave you and never come back in the name of Jesus?
- Will you begin praying about your needs and trusting God to give you the best answer?

## God wants us to love and bless others rather than to be involved in casting spells or in cursing someone

**Read Deuteronomy 18:10a-11:** “10a...There shall not be found among you anyone who...11 ...conjures spells.”

**Explain:** Casting spells is the sending forth of demonic powers to influence the thinking, actions, affections or decisions of someone through magic or through invocation of those spirits.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Is it OK for God’s people to be involved in conjuring spells? (No, God says there should not be a person among us who does such a thing.)
- How have you seen spells conjured in the shrines?
- For what purposes?

**Read Ezekiel 13:18, 21:** “18...Thus says the Lord God, woe to the women who make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of my people, and keep yourselves alive? ... 21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who is God warning in these verse? (The women who make veils to hunt souls)
- What was the purpose of the veils? (To hunt souls)
- What was God going to do? (Tear off the veils and deliver His people.)
- Who was stronger—the spirit behind the veil, or the Lord? (The Lord God)

**Read: Leviticus 20:9:** “For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What shows that cursing one’s parents was a very, very serious matter? (In Old Testament times, God said they should get the death penalty.)
- How does God feel about cursing one’s parents? (He takes it very seriously. He hates it.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- How have you yourself been involved in cursing anyone or putting a spell on them, even for something that seemed good—like causing someone to love you?

- Have you repented specifically of your involvement in that thing?
- Will you thank God for forgiving and cleansing you from this sin?
- Have you felt a release from any demonic powers associated with this practice? If you are still struggling, tell those powers to leave you now in the name of Jesus Christ. Every time you sense a struggle, just tell them to leave in the name of Jesus.
- How can your counselor pray for you in this matter?

Can you now pray a blessing on those you formerly cursed?

**God wants us to call on Him for help  
rather than to call on other spirits to speak,  
& rather than getting “possessed”**

**Read Jeremiah 33:3** “Call unto Me, and I will answer You, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know”

**Ask:**

- Who is talking in this verse? (God)
- What does He invite us to do? (Call on Him)
- What does He promise to do for us? (Show us great and mighty things that we do not know”
- What should we do when we have hard problems?

**Read Leviticus 19:31:** “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God”.

**Ask:**

- What two groups of people are we supposed to avoid? (Those that have familiar spirits and wizards)
- A familiar spirit is one that is attached to a person or a family so that it becomes very familiar with them and knows how to most effectively destroy them. Would you love to call on a familiar spirit? Why not?
- A wizard is a man who does witchcraft, using a spirit’s power to hurt someone else. Why should someone who loves Jesus keep away from such people?
- What will they do to us if we seek their help? (Defile us or make us dirty in God’s sight)
- What are we supposed to remember about God? (He is the Lord and He is our God)
- When you were in the shrine, in what ways did you call on familiar spirits?
- In your past life, in what ways did you seek wizards to tell you things or to help you?
- How does God feel about those acts?

**Read Deut. 18:10a-11, 12a:** “There shall not be found among you .... a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or one who calls on the dead, For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord”

**Ask:**

- What kinds of people were not supposed to be found amongst God’s people? (People who consulted familiar spirits, wizards (those who did witchcraft), and those who called on the dead)
- How does God feel about those who do these things?

**What should you do as a result of this lesson?**

- What is wrong with calling on spirits other than God for help? (God wants us to call on Him, so it robs Him of His glory.)
- Have you told God you are sorry for calling on such spirits? Have you decided to stop doing that?
- If you have not repented of this sin, those evil spirits have a right to stay attached to you and to keep on following you around and harassing you. But if you repent, you now have authority to tell them to get away from you and leave you alone in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Once the spirits have gone, you need to start actively calling on God to help with all your needs and trusting His answers.

## God wants to fill us with His Holy Spirit rather than demons controlling our minds and bodies

**Read:** Ephesians 5:18b “Be filled with the Spirit”

**Ask:**

- To whom is Paul writing? See Ephesians 1:1. (To the faithful in Christ Jesus, that is, to Christians or anyone who believes in Jesus)
- What does Paul tell believers to do? (To be filled with the Spirit)
- What can the Holy Spirit do a believer? (Fill him, just like water fills a bottle when you pour it in)
- What does God want for us? (To be filled with the Spirit)

Note: This is NOT about speaking in tongues. It is about letting God fill your life and guide you constantly as you obey His will.

**Read:** Isaiah 8:19 “And when they shall say unto you, ‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter’: should not a people seek unto their God? For the living to the dead?”

**Ask:**

- Peeping and muttering referred to someone consulting a spirit and going into a trance or an altered state of consciousness where his or her mouth and mind are under the control of that spirit. When people suggest consulting someone like that, what should our response be?
- What does “Should not a people consult their God” mean?
- Does it make sense for the living to consult the dead?
- The point of this verse is, People consult evil spirits because those spirits are their gods. We believers should consult God because He is our God.

### **What should I do as a result of this lesson?**

- During your time in the shrine, how often did you see demons controlling the minds, bodies and tongues of people?
- How often did they take control of you?
- How was this control seen?
- If you have become a believer in Jesus, have you asked God to take control of your life?

- Have you told those old controlling evil spirits to leave you alone in the name of Jesus? Are you OK now, or do you feel you still need help?

## God wants us to respect the bodies He has given us, not to be cutting & tattooing on them

**Read:** Leviticus 19:28 “You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any marks upon you: I am the Lord.

**Ask:**

- People who did not know God made cuts and prints on themselves for what reason? (Somehow to honor the dead)
- Did God want His people to follow that custom?

**Read** Deuteronomy 14:1-2 “You are the children of the Lord your God: you shall not cut yourselves...for you are an holy people unto the Lord your God...”

**Ask:**

- What was special about God’s people?
- Why were God’s people not supposed to cut themselves?

**What should you do as a result of this lesson?**

- What marks or cuts have you received in the shrine?
- If you received these voluntarily, will you tell God you are sorry and ask His forgiveness?
- Whether the marks and cuts were forced on you or whether you took them voluntarily, will you now rebuke them and any spirits associated with them in the name of Jesus Christ?
- Cast out any spirits that came in through cuts, marks or tattoos in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Remember that God can use these marks. As others see you having shrine marks and yet following Christ, they will be encouraged that they can do so, too. Pray that God will use your marks for His glory.



## God wants us to call on Him for help rather than seeking divination

Can you think of a verse you have already learned that teaches God wants us to seek His help? Can you remember even a few words from one of those verses? (Let the women try to recall parts of verses if they can. Affirm their efforts.)

Here is another verse that teaches God wants us to call on Him for help:

**Read:** Matthew 6:9-11 (Jesus is talking, and this is the first part of the Lord's prayer.)

“After this manner therefore you should pray: Our Father, which is in heaven, Hallowed (holy) be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.”

**Ask:**

- To whom does Jesus say we should address our prayers? (Our Father in heaven)
- Before we ask for anything for ourselves, what should we ask first? (His name be honored & His will be done)
- What daily needs are we encouraged to seek from God? (Our daily bread)
- What is your “daily bread” (the things you need every day)?

**Read:** Deuteronomy 18:14 “For these nations, which thou shalt possess, listened to...diviners, but as for you, the Lord your God has not permitted you to do so.

**Ask:**

- God's people were about to go into the Promised Land God had given them. God spoke about the idol-worshiping nations who were there before them. Who did God say those nations listened to? (Diviners)
- What is a diviner? (Those who do divination.)
- What is divination? (Calling on spirits to control certain objects that the diviner throws down, which is supposed to give a message from the spirits.)
- Who does divination in your area?
- How is divination usually done in your area?
- Has God permitted His people to listen to diviners? (No, God has not permitted you to do so.)
- Does God want you to go to divination? (No, He wants you to seek His help.)
- If you can count on God's help, is there any reason to go to a diviner? (No, because God's power is far greater than that of any diviner.)

**Read:** Ezekiel 13:6a-7b, 8b “They have seen worthless things and lying divination, saying, The Lord says: and the Lord has not sent them...have you not spoken a lying divination, for you say, ‘The Lord says,’ although I have not spoken? Therefore, thus says the Lord God; Because you have spoken worthless things, and seen lies, therefore, I am against you, says the Lord God.

**Ask:**

- What kind of divination had the people done? (Lying divination)
- How useful was their divination? (It was worthless.)
- Who did the diviners say was speaking in their divination? (They said God was speaking.)
- What problem did God have with that? (He was not speaking through them, so they were lying.)
- What did this cause God to do? (It caused God to be against them.)
- Since they got answers, and since God did not give those answers, who do you think gave them those answers? (It has to be either their own imaginations or evil spirits or both.)
- How do you see divination being used to get more girls into the shrine as trokosi?

What should you do as a result of this lesson?

- In what ways have you been involved in divination?
- Can you explain why God is not pleased with this?
- When you give up divination, what does God want you to replace it with?
- Are you ready to turn away from divination in the future? Why?
- Are you ready to ask God to forgive you for participating in it in the past?
- The Bible says, “Do not give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27). Divination definitely gives place to the devil. Will you ask God to take back all the place you have given to the devil through divination?
- Will you tell any divining spirits to leave you and never come back in the name of Jesus?
- Will you begin to take your questions and your cares and your requests to God, trusting that He knows the best way to help you?

## God wants us to trust in the blood Jesus shed for us, but not to drink the blood of animals in worship

**Read:** Ephesians 1:7 “In Him (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...”

**Ask:**

- In whose blood do we have redemption and forgiveness? (Jesus’ blood)
- How did God redeem us (buy us back for God)? (By Jesus giving His blood for us)
- How did God forgive our sins? (By Jesus giving His blood for us)

**Read:** Leviticus 19:26 “You shall not eat anything with the blood”

**Ask:**

- What part of the animal did God not want His people to eat? (the blood)
- What was special about the blood? (It was used for sacrifice, and Jesus shed His blood as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.)

### **What should you do about this lesson?**

- Have you drunk the blood of animals in worship to idols?
- Will you ask God to forgive you?
- If the drinking of blood has opened the door to evil spirits to work in your life, will you tell them to leave in the name of Jesus?
- Will you put your trust in the blood that Jesus shed on the cross for you?
- Will you thank God that His Son shed His blood for you?

## God wants us to love Him, not to seek or use false signs that don't come from Him

**Read:** Matthew 22:37 “Jesus answered: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the first and most important commandment.”

**Ask:**

- Who said these words? (Jesus)
- What is the most important commandment God gave? (To love the Lord your God)
- How much should we love Him? (With all our heart, soul and mind)

**Explain:** People sometimes assume that all signs come from God. If something strange or unusual happens, they think it must be from God. But all signs do not come from God.

**Read:** 2 Corinthians 11:14 “...Even Satan tries to make himself look like an angel of light.”

**Ask:**

- Who tries to make himself look like an angel of light? (Satan)
- What is Satan really like?
- If something looks good, even looks like an angel, is this proof that it is from God? Why? (No, because even Satan can make himself look good like an angel of light)

**Read:** 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10a “When the wicked one appears, Satan will pretend to work all kinds of miracles, wonders, and signs. Lost people will be fooled by his evil deeds.”

**Ask:**

- What does Satan pretend to do? (Work all kinds of miracles)
- What kind of miracles can Satan work? ( All kinds—miracles, wonders and signs)
- Who will be fooled by these miracles? (Lost people)
- He will work miracles, but will these deeds really be good or evil? (Evil)
- Is it true, then, that miracles only come from God? (No, Satan can also do them.)
- How could something be a miracle and be evil? (Maybe the person becomes a slave of Satan when the miracle is done. For example, a couple wants a baby. They seek evil spirits to help them. Satan gives them a baby, but makes them His slave forever. Did they get something good or something evil?)

**Read :** Deuteronomy 13:1-4 « Someday a prophet may come along who is able to perform miracles or tell what will happen in the future. Then the prophet may say, ‘Let’s start worshipping some new gods—some gods that we know nothing about.’

If the prophet says this, don't listen! The Lord your God will be watching to find out whether or not you love him with all your heart and soul.

You must be completely faithful to the Lord. Worship and obey only the Lord and do this with fear and trembling”

**Ask:**

- What does God warn them about? (Prophets who do miracles but want them to worship other gods)
- What can these prophets do? (Perform miracles and tell what will happen in the future)
- Who is watching the decision they make? (the Lord)
- Why is God allowing this to happen? (To test them to see if they really love Him)
- To whom must they be completely faithful? (to the Lord)
- Who is the only One they must worship? (the Lord)
- If somebody does miracles or tells the future, is that a good enough reason to follow him? (No, God wants us to be faithful to Him.)

**Read:** Ezekiel 13:1-3 “The Lord said:

...condemn the prophets ... who say they speak in my name, but who preach messages that come from their own imagination. Tell them it’s time to hear my message.

I, the Lord God, say those lying prophets are doomed! They don’t see visions-they make up their own messages!” (CEV)

**Ask:**

- Where do some prophets get their messages? (From their own imagination)
- Are they telling the truth? (No, God says they are lying.)
- Does God say it’s OK to make up messages and say they are from God? (No, He says those lying prophets are doomed.)
- These prophets pretend to see visions, but what is really happening? (They are making up their own messages.)

**Read:** Ezekiel 13:6-7 “Those prophets lie by claiming they speak for me, but I have not even chosen them to be my prophets. And they still think their words will come true.

They say they’re preaching my messages, but they are full of lies-I did not speak to them!”

**Ask:**

- Are those prophets telling the truth? (No, they are lying.)
- Has God chosen prophets who just make up their own messages? (No, He has not chosen them. They are lying.)
- Do these prophets think their words will come true? (Yes, they have deceived others and even themselves.)
- What are they full of? (Full of lies)
- Did God speak to them? (No, they are lying.)

**Read:** Ezekiel 13:17-18 “...condemn the women...who preach messages that come from their own imagination.

Tell them they’re doomed! They wear magic charms on their wrists and scarves on their heads, then trick others into believing they can predict the future. They won’t get away with telling those lies.”

**Ask:**

- Were all of these false prophets men (male)? (No, some were women.)
- They preach messages, but where do those messages come from? (From their own imagination)
- What do they wear? (Magic charms on their wrists and scarves on their heads)
- They say they can predict the future. Is this true? (No, they trick others into believing that.)
- Will they get away with their lies? (No, God says they will not get away with it.)
- Have you been told lies by someone associated with the shrines? By whom?
- What lies were you told?

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Will you renounce all your associations with prophets and prophetesses who are not from God?
- Will you ask God to forgive you for any association with them?
- Will you stop going to them and stop listening to them?
- Will you command any spirits they have put on you to leave you in the name of Jesus and never to come back?
- Will you begin listening to the truth of God's Word whenever you can, so that you will be able to tell God's truth from Satan's lies?

## God wants and deserves our worship. He does not want us to be involved in idolatry

**Read:** Matthew 4:10 Jesus answered, “Go away Satan! The Scriptures say: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’”

**Ask:**

- Who did Jesus send away? (Satan)
- What did Jesus quote from the Scriptures? (Worship the Lord your God serve Him only)
- Did Jesus think it was OK to serve both God and also idols? (No. He told us to worship and serve ONLY God).

**Read:** Leviticus 19:4 “...don’t make idols or images. I am the Lord your God.”

**Ask:**

- What are we not supposed to make? (Idols or images)
- Why not? (Because Lord is our God, not those idols)
- Is it OK with God if we make idols to worship? (No, He commanded us not to do it.)

**Read:** Leviticus 26:1 “I am the Lord your God! So don’t make or worship any sort of idols or images.”

**Ask:**

- Who is talking? (The Lord)
- What kind of idols is OK to make or worship? (None. We are not to make any sort of idols.)
- What two things are we not supposed to do as far as idols are concerned? (1. We are not supposed to make them. 2. We are not supposed to worship them.)
- If someone told you God does not care whether we worship idols as long as we believe in Him too, what would you say? (Worshipping idols is direct disobedience because God told us not to do it.)

**Read:** Deuteronomy 5:6-10 “I am the Lord your God....

Do not worship any god except me.

Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth.

Don’t bow down and worship idols. I am the Lord your God, and I demand all your love.

If you reject me and worship idols, I will punish your families for three or four generations.”

**Ask:**

- Who is speaking here? (the Lord)
- Who else can we worship besides God? (No one)
- What do some idols look like? (Things in the sky or on the earth or in the ocean or under the earth.)

- Is it OK with God for us to make these kinds of idols? (No, He tells us not to do so.)
- Is it OK to bow down to idols? (No, God says Don't bow down to them)
- Who demands all our love? (God)
- Why do you think God deserves all our love?
- If we worship idols, who else will pay the price besides us? ( Our children for 3 or 4 generations)
- Have you seen examples of children and grandchildren suffering because their parents worshiped idols?

**Read:** Deuteronomy 27:15 “Here are the curses: We ask the Lord to put a curse on anyone who makes an idol or worships idols, even secretly. The Lord is disgusted with idols.”

**Ask:**

- What does God think of idols? (He is disgusted with them)
- Is it OK to worship an idol secretly, as long as no one else knows we are doing it? (No, it will result in a curse.)

**Read:** Deuteronomy 29:25b-27 “Our ancestors worshiped the Lord, but after he ...made an agreement with them, they rejected the agreement and decided to worship gods that had never helped them. The Lord had forbidden Israel to worship these gods, and so he became furious and punished the land with all the curses in *The Book of God's Law*. “

**Ask:**

- Who did their ancestors worship before they started worshiping idols? (the Lord)
- What did their ancestors reject? (Their agreement with God.)
- Had the idols ever helped them? (No, never.)
- What did the Lord do when the people turned to idols and rejected Him? (He became furious or very angry, and He punished the land with many curses.)

**Read:** Deuteronomy 30:17-18 “If you obey him (God), you will live and become successful and powerful. On the other hand, you might choose to disobey the Lord and reject him. So I'm warning you that if you bow down and worship other gods, you won't have long to live.”

**Ask:**

- What would make God's people successful and powerful? (Obeying the Lord)
- What would happen if they worshiped idols? (They wouldn't have long to live.)

**Read:** 31:16-18 “The people will break the agreement I made with them, and I will be so furious that I will abandon them and ignore their prayers. I will send disasters and suffering that will nearly wipe them out. Finally, they will realize that the disasters happened because I abandoned them. They will pray to me, but I will ignore them because they were evil and started worshiping other gods.”



**Ask:**

- If God’s people break their agreement with God and worship other gods, what will happen to them? (God would send disasters to them.)
- If they prayed to God then, He says He would not hear them. Why? (Because they were evil and worshiped idols)
- Is God happy with idol worshipers? (No, He is angry with them and will punish them.)

**Read:** Jeremiah 1:16 “I will punish my people, because they are guilty of turning from me to worship idols.”

**Ask:**

- Why will God punish His people? (Because they turned away from Him to worship idols)
- When we worship idols, does God consider us innocent or guilty? (Guilty)

**Read:** Jeremiah 2: 26-27 “You and your leaders are more disgraceful than thieves— you and your kings, your priests and prophets worship stone idols and sacred poles as if they had created you and had given you life. You have rejected me...”

**Ask:**

- Why did God consider the people and their leaders as more disgraceful than thieves? (Because their leaders worshiped idols)
- What were some of their idols made of? (Stone)
- Is stone alive? Can it give life? (It is not alive and it cannot give life.)
- Sacred poles were tall idols made to look like the erect penis of a man. Have you seen any sacred poles in your community?
- What are idols made of where you live? Is there any reason to believe that these idols can give life?

**Read:** Jeremiah 10:3-5 “Their religion is worthless! They chop down a tree, carve the wood into an idol, cover it with silver and gold, and then nail it down so it won’t fall over. An idol is no better than a scarecrow. It can’t speak, and it has to be carried, because it can’t walk. Why worship an idol that can’t help or harm you?”

**Ask:**

- How does God see the religion of idol-worshipers? (Worthless)
- How are some of their idols made? (People make them themselves of wood, sometimes covered with silver or gold) Can wood, silver or gold give life?
- How does the writer make fun of idols? (They have to be nailed down so they won’t fall over, they are no better than scarecrows, they are helpless, having to be carried.)
- Can an idol help you? (No)
- Can an idol harm you? (No)
- If an idol can’t help you, what is the use of worshipping it?

**Read:** Matthew 7:11, “As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give good things to people who ask.”

**Ask:**

- Since God does not want us to seek help from idols, how are we to get help? (God is ready to give good things to those who ask Him)
- Is it hard to convince God to give us good things? (No, He is ready to give us good things.)
- What do we need to do to get these good things God wants to give us? (Ask Him.)

**What do you need to do in response to this lesson?**

- Have you broken all connections with idols? When and how did I do this?
- Have you hidden away any idols that you still need to get rid of?
- Are you still attending or participating in festivals, sacrifices, or any other kind of idol worship?
- Do you have statues of people called saints?
- Are you praying to anyone other than God?
- Will you break completely with every remaining part of idol worship and determine to worship God alone?
- Have you commanded spirits of idols you once worshiped to leave you in the name of Jesus and never come back?
- Will you begin talking to God in prayer each day, asking Him to supply your needs and waiting for His answers?

## God wants us to pour out our prayers to Him and not to be involved in pouring libation to false gods

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:1 “First of all, I ask you to pray for everyone. Ask God to help and bless them all, and tell God how thankful you are for each of them.”

**Ask:**

- What is one important thing God wants us to do for everyone? (To pray for them)
- To whom should we pray for them? (We should ask God for them)
- What should we ask for them? (That God would help and bless them)

**Read:** Jeremiah 44:15-22 “A large number of (people) listened to me as I told them what the Lord had said. Most of the men in the crowd knew that their wives often burned incense to other gods. So they and their wives shouted:

Jeremiah, what do we care if you speak in the Lord’s name? We refuse to listen!

We have promised to worship the goddess Astarte, the Queen of Heaven, and that is exactly what we are going to do. We will burn incense and offer sacrifices of wine to her...

Then I told the crowd:

Don’t you think the Lord knew that you ...were burning incense to other gods ...?

And when he could no longer put up with your disgusting sins, he placed a curse on your land and turned it into a desert, as it is today.”

**Ask:**

- What idol were the people worshiping? (Astarte, the Queen of Heaven)
- What kind of sacrifices did they offer her? (Incense & sacrifices of wine)
- When wine is poured out on the ground, what is it called? (Pouring libation)
- When God’s prophets told them to stop worshiping their idol, what was the people’s response? (They refused.)
- What was the result of their idol worship? (God turned their land into a desert.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- When have you been involved in pouring out libation to the ancestors or to spirits or idols other than God?
- Will you ask God’s forgiveness and direct your prayers for all people to Him from now on?
- Spirits may have entered you or attached themselves to you as a result of any libation pouring in which you participated or were present. Will you tell those spirits to leave you now in the name of Jesus and never to come back?

## God wants us to love and value our children and not to sacrifice them to false gods

**Read:** Psalm 27:3-4 “Children are a blessing and a gift from the Lord. Having a lot of children to take care of you in your old age is like a warrior with a lot of arrows.”

**Ask:**

- How does God look at children—as a blessing or a curse? (A blessing from God)
- Children are a blessing and a \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord (Gift from the Lord)
- What can children do for you? (Take care of you in your old age)

**Read:** Leviticus 18:21 “Don’t sacrifice your children on the altar fires to the god Molech. I am the Lord your God, and that would disgrace me.”

**Ask:**

- What does God warn His people not to do with their children? (Not to sacrifice them to an idol)
- If they did sacrifice their children to an idol, how would God feel about that? (It would disgrace Him.)
- What kind of sacrifices did the idol Molech demand or want? (Children)
- What gods in your area demand sacrifices of children?
- Have you heard of idol gods demanding sacrifices of children? What have you heard?
- Although children are not killed in trokosi, in many ways children are still sacrificed. Why do you think we say this?
- How does God feel about children being forced to atone as trokosi?
- How do you feel about it?

**Read:** Deuteronomy 12:30-31 “...you must be especially careful not to ask, “How did those nations worship their gods? Shouldn’t we worship the Lord in the same way?”

No, you should not! The Lord hates the disgusting way those nations worship their gods, because they even burn their sons and daughters as sacrifices.”

**Ask:**

- Does God want us to try to worship Him in the same way that idol worshipers worship their gods? (No, we must be especially careful not to do this.)
- What does God think of the way they worship their gods? (He hates it and considers it disgusting.)
- What part of their idol worship is especially hateful to God?

**What should you do as a result of this lesson?**

- Have you repented of every involvement in the trokosi system of offering children as living sacrifices to atone for a sin?
- Have you repented of any involvement in child sacrifice in any way?
- Another way people sacrifice children is by aborting them or by killing them soon after birth. Have you repented of any involvement in these?
- Have you ever cursed your children or wished your children were dead?
- All these acts attract evil spirits that love to destroy children. When you have repented of them, you can command those spirits to leave you in the name of Jesus and never to come back.
- Will you pray for your children, care for them, and ask God to give you a genuine love for them?

## God wants us to call on Him for help and not to call on the dead

**Read:** John 16:24 Jesus said, “ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus tell us to do? (Ask God for what we need.)
- When we ask God for something in Jesus’ name, what will happen? (We will receive it.)
- Why does God want to help us? (So that our joy may be full.)

**Read:** Deuteronomy 18:11-12a “...don’t try to ... talk with spirits of the dead. The Lord is disgusted with anyone who does these things...”

**Ask:**

- What should we not try to do? (We should not try to talk with spirits of the dead.)
- How does God feel about those who try to talk with spirits of the dead? (He is disgusted with them.)
- Our ancestors have all died. If we call on them for help, is this calling on the spirits of the dead? (Yes. God does not want us to do that.)
- The Roman Catholic church calls some special people saints, and these are all people who have died. If we call on them for help, is this calling on the spirits of the dead? (Yes, it is. God does not want us to do that.)

**Read:** Leviticus 20:6 “I will be your enemy if you go to someone who claims to speak with the dead, and I will destroy you from among my people.”

**Ask:**

- What will make God our enemy?

**Read:** 1 Timothy 4:1 “Now the Spirit clearly says that in the last times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits...”

**Ask:**

- What do we learn about evil spirits from this verse? (They are deceiving spirits. Their job is to fool us.)
- If we call on spirits of the dead, what kind of spirit might answer us? (An evil, deceiving spirit)

### **What should you do about this lesson?**

- Think of every way in which you have called on spirits of the dead. It could be calling on dead ancestors, pouring libation or making sacrifice to dead ancestors, or calling on dead saints. If you are ready to stop calling on the dead for help, you can tell God you are sorry and ask His forgiveness.

- Calling on spirits of the dead usually attracts evil, deceiving spirits. If you have repented and been forgiven, you can tell those spirits that you are breaking all connection with them right now in the name of Jesus. Tell them to leave and never to come back in the name of Jesus.
- Do you have statues or pictures of Catholic saints in your home? Do you have a rosary with a picture of Mary (who is dead)? These items can attract evil spirits because they represent a practice that God finds disgusting. You will need to get rid of these items in order to find complete freedom from harassment by these spirits. Will you do it now?
- In place of calling on the dead, God wants you to call on Him. What are the biggest concerns you have right now? Will you bring them to God in prayer right now?

**God wants us to worship Him wherever we are  
& to meet regularly with other believers.  
He does not want us to have shrines & high places**

**Read:** 1 Timothy 2:8 “I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting”

**Ask:**

- Where are we supposed to pray? (Everywhere)
- What kind of hands are we supposed to have when we pray? (Holy hands)
- What are we supposed to leave behind when we pray? (Wrath, which means anger, and doubting)
- Is there anywhere we cannot pray to God? (No, we can pray to God everywhere.)

**Read:** Hebrews 10:25 “Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord’s coming is getting closer.” (CEV)

**Ask:**

- We must not get out of the habit of doing what? (Meeting for worship)
- So then, we must do what? (Keep on meeting for worship)
- When we meet, what do we do to what another? (We encourage one another.)
- As time goes on and the Lord’s coming gets closer, does this command become more important or less important? (More important)
- You can pray to God everywhere. But where can you go to meet with other believers? (To church)

**Read:** Ephesians 2:19 “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”

**Ask:**

- What were we once in relation to God’s people, before we came to Christ? (Strangers and foreigners. That is, outsiders, outside the people & family of God)
- What have we now become in Christ? (Fellow citizens with the saints, members of the household of God)
- Since we are one family with other believers, should we desire to stay apart from them, or to be in association with them? (To be in association with them)



**Read:** Ezekiel 16:30-31a “How degenerate is your heart!” says the Lord GOD, “seeing you do all these *things*, the deeds of a brazen harlot. You erected your shrine at the head of every road, and built your high place in every street.”

**Ask:**

- What kind of a heart does God say His people had? (Degrerate)
- Is that good or bad? (Very, very bad)
- God compares their deeds with what? (A harlot or a prostitute)
- What did they do that God did not like? (Constructed a shrine at the head of every road and built high places in every street)
- Have you seen shrines at places where roads meet in your community?
- High places were shrines that were built up high. Was God happy to see them everywhere? (No, God said this was a sign that their hearts were not good.)

**What should you do as a result of this lesson?**

- Were you liberated from a shrine? When? How?
- Are you still associated with any other shrine? If so, what shrine? Why are you associated with it?
- Are you going back to the shrine for festivals or for sacrifices or for consultations even though you have been freed from the shrine? If so, why?
- Are you willing now to renounce all association with all shrines and to decide that you will never go back? If you are, make that renouncement now in the presence of your counselor or other witnesses.
- Have you rebuked all spirits that may have attached themselves to you as a result of going to the shrine or being given to the shrine? If not, will you do so now?
- Will you ask God’s forgiveness for your involvement with shrines?
- Instead of going to the shrine, will you begin to pray to God every day wherever you are?
- Instead of going to the shrine, will you meet regularly with other believers?
- If this is hard for you, will you at least begin by visiting a church?
- Will you determine never to send your children to the shrine no matter what

## God made us male and female. He gave us sex as a gift to be used only in marriage

**Read:** Genesis 1:27-28a, 31a “So God created humanity in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them... Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was* very good.”

**Ask:**

- Who created humanity (people)? (God)
- He created them to be like whom? (Like Himself—in His own image)
- Was it only men that God created in His image? (No—male and female)
- Whose idea was it to make two kinds of people—male and female? (God’s idea)
- What did God do after He created the first people? (He blessed them.)
- What did God say about the people He made made? (Everything He made was very good, including the first male and female human beings.)
- Is it better to be male, or is also OK to be female? (It is good to be what God made you, because He made everything good.)
- Are you glad for the gender God made you to be?

**Read:** Genesis 2:21-22, 24 “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.... Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

**Ask:**

- What did God cause to happen to Adam? (He caused a deep sleep to come on him.)
- What did God do while Adam was asleep? (Took one of his ribs and made a woman.)
- What did God do when Adam woke up? (Brought the woman to him)
- Who performed the first marriage? (God)
- How does God describe marriage? (A man being joined to a wife and becoming one flesh)
- How many women did God make for Adam? (One.)
- How many women did God bring to Adam as a wife? (One.)
- What does this say about God’s intention for marriage? (One man and one woman will leave their homes and become one flesh together.)

**Read:** “Have respect for marriage. Always be faithful to your marriage partner, because God will punish anyone who is immoral or unfaithful in marriage.”

**Ask:**

- What does God want us to respect? (Marriage)
- To whom are we supposed to be faithful? (To our marriage partner)
- What will God do to anyone who is immoral or unfaithful in marriage? (God will punish them.)

**What should you do as a result of this lesson?**

- How does the practice of trokosi show disrespect for marriage?
- What is your present marriage status?
- If you are married, are you being faithful to your spouse? If not, in what way have you been unfaithful?
- Will you repent of anything you have done that has been outside of what God intended for marriage?
- Will you ask God's forgiveness and tell any spirits of unfaithfulness to leave you in the name of Jesus?
- Will you thank God for the gender He made you to be? Will you ask him to help you be a woman (or a man) who honors Him?
- Have you tried to be like the opposite gender, thinking maybe that was better? If so, will you repent, seek God's forgiveness, and tell any spirits to leave who may have come in because of your attitude or actions?
- What questions do you still have about being a woman (or a man) of God? Will you talk these over with your counselor?

## God wants us to avoid the ruin or perversion of our God-given sexuality that is often associated with idolatry.

God made us male and female and He gave us the good gift of sex to be used in marriage. But like all good gifts God has given, evil spirits have tried to pervert, twist and ruin our sexuality and our marriages. When we worship idols, we often find ourselves having sexual problems, marriage and family problems.

**Read:** Leviticus 19:29 “Don’t let your daughters serve as shrine prostitutes—this would bring disgrace both to them and the land.”

### Ask:

- What are God’s people not supposed to let their daughters do? (Serve as shrine prostitutes)
- Who is disgraced if they do become shrine prostitutes? (They are disgraced and the whole land is disgraced, too.)
- Shrine prostitutes in those days were much like trokosi or vudusi in our days. They served in idol shrines and had sex in religious rituals. How does God feel about families sending their daughters to become trokosi or promising them as yevesi or vudusi?
- What is one way that evil spirits perverted God’s gift of sex?

**Read:** Jeremiah 2:19-22 I, the Lord All-Powerful, have spoken.

Long ago you left me and broke all ties between us, refusing to be my servant. Now you worship other gods by having sex on hilltops or in the shade of large trees.

You were a choice grapevine, but now you produce nothing but small, rotten grapes.

The Lord said... you are stained with guilt, and no soap or bleach can wash it away.”

### Ask:

- Who is speaking in these verses? (the Lord, the All-Powerful)
- How did the people claim to worship God? (By having sex on hilltops or under sacred trees)
- Although they were once like a choice grapevine, what do they produce now? (Only small, rotten grapes)
- Does the Lord consider them innocent or guilty? (Guilty)
- What soap can wash away their guilt? (No soap or bleach can do it.)
- What is another way evil spirits perverted God’s gift of sex?

**Read:** Leviticus 18:20 “Don’t have sex with another man’s wife—that would make you unclean.”

### Ask:

- With whom are we forbidden to have sex? (Someone else’s wife or husband)
- What does this unfaithfulness do to us? (Makes us unclean)

- What is another way evil spirits perverted God’s gift of sex?

**Read:** Leviticus 18:6 “Don’t have sex with any of your close relatives”

**Ask:**

- Who else are we forbidden to have sex with? (Any of our close relatives)
- What is another way evil spirits pervert God’s gift of sex?

**Read:** Leviticus 20:22 “It’s disgusting for men to have sex with one another”

**Ask:**

- What does God think of men having sex with one another? (It is disgusting.)
- Does God approve of homosexuality? (No, He considers it disgusting.)
- What is another way evil spirits pervert God’s gift of sex?

**Read:** Leviticus 18:23 “Anyone who has sex with an animal is unclean.

**Ask:**

- Have you ever heard of anyone having sex with an animal?
- Does God approve of this practice? (No, it makes us unclean.)
- What is another way evil spirits pervert God’s gift of sex?

### **What should you do about this lesson?**

- In what ways does the trokosi /yevesi /vudusi system violate God’s good plan for sex?
- In what ways were you violated?
- In what ways did you violate others (whether you were forced to do so or not)?
- How has this caused you to feel about sex?
- In what ways have you been sexually unfaithful since you were freed from the shrine?
- Will you confess all your sexual sins to God and seek His forgiveness to restore you?
- Will you seek to follow God’s plan for your sexuality from now on?

- Evil spirits are especially concerned with sex. This is seen in the fact that although angels were not designed by God to have children, evil spirits are most often seen as either male or female. Idols are often designed to look like exaggerated sexual organs. And sexual immorality is often a part of rituals in worshipping idols. Do you think that evil spirits could be jealous of us because God gave us the gift of sex in marriage, but He did not give it to them?
- Evil spirits often attach themselves to people through forbidden sexual acts, or even through viewing sexual acts like looking at pornography. When you are ready to break with the acts that give these demons permission to harass you, you can tell them to leave in the name of Jesus and never to come back.
- Trokosi breaks up homes and families for generations. Since you have been freed, you can now begin a new chain of godly generations. Ask God to help you to control your sexuality in a way that pleases Him. Ask God to give you the husband and family He wants in the time He chooses.

**God wants us to avoid the injustice  
that is often associated with idolatry.**

**He wants us to be just and to do justice, even as He is just.**

**Read:** Jeremiah 7:5-10 The Lord said, “I will keep you safe only if you change your ways. Be fair and honest with each other.

Stop taking advantage of foreigners, orphans, and widows. Don’t kill innocent people. And stop worshiping other gods.

Then I will let you enjoy a long life...

But just look at what is happening! You put your trust in worthless lies.

You steal and murder; you lie in court and are unfaithful in marriage. You worship idols and offer incense to Baal, when these gods have never done anything for you.

And then you come into my temple and worship me! Do you think I will protect you so that you can go on sinning?”

**Ask:**

- Do you notice how injustice is connected with idolatry? When the people worshiped idols, what injustices did they commit? (Taking advantage of foreigners, orphans and widows, killing innocent people, stealing, lying, being unfaithful in marriage)
- Was God willing to protect these people? (No)
- Why not? (Because they were worshiping idols and committing all kinds of injustice.)
- You have seen much idol worship. How have you seen it associated with injustice?
- How have you seen it harden hearts?

**What should you do about this lesson?**

- As you turn back to God and away from idolatry, what injustices do you need to give up in your own life?
- Is there any way that you are still taking unfair advantage of some other person? What?
- As a trokosi, a great injustice was done to you when you were young and weak. Satan could use that to tempt you now to pass on that injustice to others. Is there any way you see him doing that? Are you tempted to do that?
- Will you turn your back on injustice and begin to treat others with love and respect?

- Will you ask forgiveness for any sin of injustice or of desire for revenge?  
Will you rebuke any spirits that came to you through injustice and command them to leave you now in the name of Jesus?



**God wants us to avoid every form of slavery,  
which is often associated with idolatry.  
He wants us to be free and to help others become free.**

**Read:** John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

**Ask:**

- Satan and his evil spirits are presented here as what? (As a thief)
- Why does a thief come? (To steal, to kill, and to destroy)
- What plans do Satan and his demons have for us? (To steal, to kill, and to destroy)
- Why did Jesus come? (That we might have life and have it abundantly.)
- Can you give some examples of things Satan has stolen from you?
- Can you give some examples of ways he has killed and destroyed?
- Have you seen Jesus give someone new life?

**Read:** John 8:34 “Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”

**Ask:**

- What did Jesus say happens to one who commits sin? (He becomes a slave of sin.)
- Have you seen someone totally or almost totally controlled by evil spirits?
- Is that person a slave to evil spirits?

**Read:** John 8:36 “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.”

**Ask:**

- Who is the only One who can make us really free? (the Son)
- What can Jesus the Son of God do for us? (Make us free.)
- How free can He make us? (Free indeed. Really, truly, totally free.)

**What will you do as a result of this lesson?**

- In what ways have you been a slave to sin and to evil spirits?
- Are you ready to put your trust in Jesus so that He can free you from the power of sin and of Satan?
- If you have not yet received Jesus, will you pray right now? Tell him that you are sorry for your sin and you want Him to change your heart and life.

Ask Him to come in and save you right now.

- Ask God to free you from the influence and power of any evil spirits.
- Ask God to help you follow Jesus completely, yielding more and more of your life to Him.

**God wants us to avoid the poverty  
& low level of development  
that is often associated with idolatry.**

**Read:** “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

**Ask:**

- What kind of thoughts does the Lord think about regarding His people? (Thought of peace and not of evil.)
- What does the Lord want to give us? (A future and a hope.)
- Does this sound like poverty? (No.)

**Read:** Psalm 16:4 “Their sorrows shall be multiplied who hasten (hurry) after another god”

**Ask:**

- What will be multiplied if we seek after other gods besides the Lord? (Our sorrows will be multiplied.)
- If we follow idols, we will not just ADD sorrows to ourselves. We will do what to our sorrows? (Multiply them.)
- If our sorrows are multiplied, do they become many more, or many less? (Many more.)
- Does any good thing come out of idolatry? (No, only more sorrows.)
- What could we do to make our sorrows less? (Leave off idolatry. Seek the Lord instead of seeking other gods.)

**What will you do as a result of this lesson?**

- What are some of the sorrows of the area where you live?
- How many of these sorrows come out of idolatry?
- What are some of the sorrows of your own life?
- How many of these personal sorrows come out of idolatry?
- Is there still something that attaches you to idolatry, something Satan could use to keep on multiplying your sorrows? If so, what is it?
- What do you need to do to break entirely with that thing?

## God wants to give us the solution to our problems— as we seek Him with our whole hearts

**Read:** Matthew 6:24-33 “No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and money. “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?”

**Ask:**

- Is it possible to serve God and also serve evil spirits or money? (No, no one can serve two masters.)
- Why should we not worry about what we will eat, drink, or wear? (God gives us life and that is more important than these other things.)

**Continue reading:** Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one foot to his stature?

**Ask:**

- How can looking at the birds encourage us?
- Can we make ourselves taller by worrying?

**Continue reading:** “So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, *will He* not much more *clothe* you, O you of little faith?”

**Ask:**

- What do the flowers have to teach us?
- Who can we trust to clothe us?

**Finish reading:** “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

**Ask:**

- What should we NOT worry about? (Food to eat, something to drink, clothing to wear)
- Why should we not worry about them?

- Does God know we need these things? (Yes)
- Instead of worrying about getting what we need, what should we do? (Seek God and His Kingdom first.)
- When we seek God first, what will God add to us? (All these other things we need)

The final conclusion of the matter is:  
We need to cling to God--no matter what!

## Bible teaching about God— How many Gods are there?

There is one God who lives forever in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Read:** Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one!”

**Read:** Genesis 1:26-27 “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.... So God created man in His *own* image”

**Read:** Mark 1:9-11 It came to pass in those days *that* Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

## Bible teaching about Jesus—Who is Jesus?

Jesus is God’s Son and truly God.

**Read:** John 1:1-3, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Read: Galatians 4:4

## Bible doctrine—What is our problem with God?

Our problem with God is that we have sinned, offending His holiness.

Romans 3:10, 23

John 3:18-19

## Bible doctrine—Why did Jesus die for us?

Jesus died to pay the perfect sacrifice that God demanded to atone for our sins.

Romans 5:8-9

## Bible doctrine—How do we know God accepted Jesus' sacrifice?

God sent many signs to show His approval, and finally Jesus from the dead.

Mark 15:33, Luke 23:44-45a Darkness at noon

Matthew 27:51b Earth shook, rocks broke, dead raised at the moment of His death

Matthew 27:51, Mark 15:38, Luke 23:45b Veil

Matthew 28:5-6, Luke 24:5-6

## Bible doctrine—How & why can we now come to God?

We who believe in Jesus can come boldly and freely into God's presence through Jesus our Mediator and Advocate.

Ephesians 2:13, 3:12

Hebrews 4:16

## Bible doctrine—How can we be saved & know it for sure?

We can know we are saved by choosing to place our faith entirely in Jesus.

Romans 10:9 & 13

I John 5:13

## Bible doctrine—What happens when we become believers

When we become believers so many good things happen that totally change our lives.

Our sins are forgiven Ephesians 1:7 and washed away I Corinthians 6:11

We will never come under God's wrath I Thessalonians 5:9

We were sealed with the Holy Spirit to show that we are God's own Ephesians 1:13

He makes our dead spirits alive Ephesians 2:1, 5

He saves us Ephesians 2:8

He brings us near to God & makes us His people Ephesians 2:12 & 13

He makes us one with all God's people Ephesians 2:19

He gives us the right to come boldly and confidently before God Ephesians 3:12

He gave us one or more spiritual gifts Ephesians 4:7-8

The Spirit of God comes to live in us I Corinthians 3:16

We receive strength to do whatever God asks of us Philippians 4:13



## Bible doctrine—What happens when a Christian sins?

When a Christian sins God is grieved and fellowship with God is broken. We suffer many consequences, but we are still saved.

We do sin I John 1:8

God forgives us when we confess our sin I John 1:9

God can strengthen us to overcome temptation to sin I Corinthians 10:12-13

Brings shame on God's name Philippians 1:27, I Samuel 12:14

Influences our children to move away from God Matthew 18:6 & even to die I Samuel 12:14

Hinders our prayers I Peter 3:7b

We make Jesus sick Revelation 3:16 & we grieve the Spirit of God Ephesians 4:30

Causes loss of rewards 2 Timothy 4:7-8, Hebrews 10:35-36, Revelation 3:11

Causes loss of position of influence I Samuel 15:23

Can become a victim of the devil I Peter 5:8

Can cause sickness & even physical death I Corinthians 11:30, I John 5:16

## Bible doctrine—Who is going to win in the end?

**Jesus! And we win too, if we are in Him.**

Revelation 22:12-14

## Tips on Talking to Priests and Priestesses

*Advice to the evangelist:*

*A note about using visitors: Sometimes priests are willing to listen more readily to outsiders than to “their own.” We can use this to advantage. You can take along a visitor who wants to know about their religion or culture or particular god, coaching your visitor not to act shocked but to listen politely and be very interested no matter what is said. Usually after you and your visitor listen to the priest politely, he will ask you if you have anything to say. If not, you can ask him if you might now say a few words. Almost always, your request will be granted, and you can then give some of the teaching which follows in this book.*

*Even if you have no visitor, if you don’t know all about the particular god or cult with which the priest is associated, you tell him you are a Christian, a pastor, etc., but you are interested in understanding more about African Traditional Religion and ask him to tell you about his own particular shrine. Listen politely and then ask him if you also might share a few words with him.*

*Best to talk privately or in groups? You probably will not have a choice, as shrine people tend to cluster together. However, it is unwise ever to seek a large group. It can be much more effective to speak to an adherent privately or in a small group.*

*If in a group, it will be hard to call individuals to a decision. Encourage the group to think about it, and let them know that if any one of them wants to consider it further, you are always open to talk with them. Let them know how to contact you.*

*Do your best to talk to them with a tone of respect and friendship in your voice and mannerisms.*

*Don’t begin your talk by criticizing them and certainly not by ridiculing them. Ridiculing idolatry does not seem to work well. It makes your listener angry and defensive and inclined to fight with you rather than to listen to what you have to say.*

*First, try to establish some common ground, something you can both agree on. The Apostle Paul did this when we confronted the idolators of the city of Athens (Acts 17). He even quoted one of their pagan poets.*

*It is easy to establish common ground with African traditionalists because they all recognize the existence of one great true and living God who made all things, even making the spirits. Agree on this point and congratulate the priest for acknowledging the existence of God. This gets you started on a positive note and provides a strong foundation on which you can build. THEN go on to talk about differences.*

Other “Common ground” areas:

- *Acknowledgment that spirits do exist, have some power, and often interact with human beings.*
- *Acknowledgment that we are all sinners.*
- *Acknowledgment that God demands payment or blood sacrifice for our sins.*

*Whenever you teach something, don't go on until you first ask them how they feel about what you've said. Then listen carefully and think about their response. The answer given can give you valuable feedback and tell you what you need to clarify, what you need to teach more about, and whether they are ready to take the next step.*

**Major topics of importance to discuss—**

### **1. The uniqueness of the sacrifice of Jesus**

➡😊⬅️ Approach the topic—Ask the priest or priestess these questions:

You've offered many sacrifices to the gods. Jesus also offered a sacrifice, but His was very different. Has anyone ever talked to you about how His sacrifice was different? Have you ever thought about how His sacrifice was different?

Interact with them around the Word--

📖 Read Matt. 27:45 You've offered many sacrifices. Has it ever happened that darkness came over the land at noon just at the very moment of the sacrifice?

📖 Read Matt. 27:50& John 19:30 Jesus was not forcibly killed. He yielded up his spirit. When He was ready to die, he said, “It is finished.” Then He gave His life to God. Have you ever seen your sacrificial victim yield up its life?

📖 Read Matt. 27:51 In Jerusalem there was a temple built to honor the one true and living God, the Creator of everything. Like in your shrines, there was a sacred place where only the high priest was allowed to enter. Over the door of that place was a very heavy veil that reached up so high no one could reach the top of it without a ladder. At the very moment Jesus died, that veil tore in two from top (where no one could reach) to bottom. The veil in your shrine is not nearly as heavy nor as tall. Yet when you offered your sacrifices, have you ever seen, at the very moment of the sacrifice, the veil of your shrine tear in two?

📖 Read Matt. 27:51 As you offered your sacrifices, have you ever had the ground shake?

📖 Read Matt. 28:1-6 Have any of your sacrifices ever risen from the dead?

❓ God did not send these signs when you offered sacrifices of animals or wine or whatever. Yet He showed SO MANY signs when Jesus died on the cross. What do you think God was trying to show us? (He was trying to show us that Jesus was giving the perfect, complete sacrifice and that He was accepting it as payment for our sins.)

📖 Read Hebrews 7:27, 9:25-26 Christ died once for all.

❓ Let's think about the practice of replacement. The trokosi are supposed to atone for a certain sin. Yet in most of the shrines, if the girl dies or escapes, another girl must be given in her place. If the life of the trokosi girl serving the gods could atone for a sin, when she died, wouldn't the gods say the sin had been atoned for? When they require another girl, and yet another, and yet another, doesn't this show that the sin has not been atoned for, despite the suffering of generation after generation?

❗ Yet Jesus died once and that was sufficient because he TRULY AND COMPLETELY ATONED FOR ALL OUR SIN.

❓ Do you understand how the sacrifice of Jesus is different from all others? How?

❓ You have a choice to make. You can keep on offering animal sacrifices & taking trokosi to try to atone for sins, but you know that they can never complete the job. Or, you receive Jesus and accept the sacrifice He made for your sins and for all our sins. Then you will know that those sins really are forgiven, completely and

forever.

? Is there anything that could keep you from accepting the perfect sacrifice that Jesus made? If so, what is it?

? Are you ready to accept that sacrifice right now and begin a new life?

### Major topics of importance to discuss—

#### 2. God wants all our worship. He demands it, desires it, and is worthy of it. He will not share it with another.

➡😊← Approach the topic-- You acknowledge that there is One God who made everything, as I do, too.

Did you know that God has given us some rules for living and for worship? They are called the Ten Commandments.

📖 Who does the first command say we are to worship?

Exodus 20:1-3: “God said to the people...  
I am the Lord your God...  
Do not worship any god except me.

📖 What does the second command say we are to avoid?

Exodus 20:4-6 “Do not make idols that look like anything in the sky or on earth or in the ocean under the earth.  
Don’t bow down and worship idols. I am the Lord your God, and I demand all your love. If you reject me, I will punish your families for three or four generations. But if you love me and obey my laws, I will be kind to your families for thousands of generations.”

📖 With whom else will God share His glory?

Isaiah 42:8 “My name is the Lord!  
I won’t let idols or humans  
share my glory and praise.” (CEV)

? According to God’s commands, what does He think of worshipping other spirits or images or anyone other than Him?

? Does this mean you are in trouble with God? Why?

### Major topics of importance to discuss—

#### 3. Who is Lucifer and who are the spirits who follow him?

➡😊⬅ Approach the Topic— God tells us He wants us to worship only Him. (See major topic 2.) Yet you have contacted other spirits, too. You know they exist, you know they do communicate with people, and you know they have some power, right?

Then, these spirits who want worship—who are they? (If the person you are talking with gives ideas, listen politely and note their ideas.) Then ask, would you like to see what the Bible says about who they are?

📖 Their leader’s name is Lucifer.

Isaiah 14:12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! “

? Have you heard this name before? Do you know of any spirit that calls himself Lucifer?

📖 God cut Lucifer down because he wanted to put His throne up above God’s throne.

Isaiah 14:12b-13a (continuing )

“How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!  
For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...’ (NKJV)

📖 Lucifer was created as a good, beautiful angel of God, but he sinned, turning against God.


Ezekiel 28:13-15 “At one time, you were perfect, intelligent, and good-looking. You lived in the garden of Eden and wore ...brightly colored gems and precious stones. They were all set in gold and were ready for you on the day you were born. I appointed a winged creature to guard your home on my holy mountain, where you walked among gems that dazzled like fire. You were truly good from the beginning, until sin was found in you.” (CEV, adapted)

 He is a murderer and a liar.


John 8:44 “You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

 He works in those who are sons of disobedience.

Ephesians 2:2c “the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience”

 God made hell for him and the angels (spirits) who follow him.

Matthew 25:41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels’ “

 God will punish him in the lake of fire forever.

Revelation 20:10 “The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.”

**?** From what God tells us, does He consider Lucifer and the angels who followed him as His (God’s) friend? Does he consider them as our friend?

**?** What was Lucifer’s terrible sin?

**?** Why was this sin so bad that God created a place of punishment especially for him and his followers?

- ? Would you like to follow a leader who is a murderer and a liar?
- ? Since Lucifer and all his followers will be punished in the lake of fire, would you like to follow Lucifer?
- ? Do you think you might be following Lucifer, even though you did not realize it?
- ? What do you need to do about this?

### Major topics of importance to discuss—

#### 4. God wants us all to repent, and each person can decide to do so.

➡😊⬅ Approach the topic-- If you have following a path in the forest, and you discover that you are going the wrong way, what will you do? Will you not turn around and go back?

“Repent” means “to turn around.”

📖 In the Bible we read about people who repented. They realized they were going the wrong way, so they turned around and went the other way.

I Thessalonians 1:9 “...how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”

- ? What did they turn from, and what did they turn to?
- ? Do you personally know of anyone who has turned away from idols and turned to God?
- ? What are some of the things people often say about people from turning away from idols and turning to God?
- ? Do you know of anyone who turned away from idols to God and did not go mad? Do you know of anyone who did not die?



- ? If these things do not happen to people, why do you think people say they do happen?
- ? If you were to repent, do you think God is strong enough to protect you from anything evil spirits can do to you? Who is stronger, God or Satan?
- ? What do you think you need to repent of?
- ? Can you think of anything that could keep you from repenting?
- ? Will you repent? When?

***Going back on repeat visits to the shrine:***

- *Take ample time to greet them, not just formally, but also in a friendly manner. If they have had problems, offer to pray for them and if they agree, do so right then, praying in the name and for the glory of Jesus.*
- *Ask what they remember about what you discussed the last time. Listen to them. Review & correct if necessary.*
- *Ask what questions or concerns they have the teaching they heard. If there are questions, take them seriously & take time to answer them carefully and respectfully. If you are not sure of the answer, tell them you don't know, but you will try to find out. Then do so, and bring the answer later for another discussion.*
- *Ask if you could share one more thing that has been on your heart. Then go on to the next teaching or to the next thing to which God is leading you.*
- *Remember that many of these people are seeking a welcome. If you welcome them in the name of Christ, they may be drawn to Him.*

## Standards for & Methods of Deliverance Every Child Ministries

- When we speak of deliverance, we mean specifically release from the indwelling or the influence of demonic powers. It is what Jesus and His disciples did when they cast out demons. We do not think of healing as deliverance except when it is a demonic power that is directly causing the sickness. In that case, when the demon is cast out, the sickness will be healed.
- The authority for deliverance from demonic powers comes from Jesus Christ and not from us. Therefore deliverance should always be done in His name, calling on His name, relying on His authority, and giving Him the honor for any good results. Luke 10:17
- No insults or ridicule to the victim or to the demonic power are permitted during deliverance. Ridiculing or insulting a person would dishonor God who made all human beings in His image, and ridiculing a demonic power is very dangerous according to Jude, vs. 8-9.
- No physical attack or shouting is permitted during deliverance. In the Bible we never read that demons were cast out by hitting, slapping, kicking, shouting, etc. Demons were simply commanded to leave in Jesus' name. It is the authority of Jesus and not physical violence or loud noise that causes demons to leave.
- The one doing deliverance may fast before or during deliverance, but the victim should not be denied water, reasonable food, or sleep. Deliverance is not more effective because the victim is weakened. Jesus is powerful to defeat demons when the victim is in full physical and mental strength.
- No rituals are to be done during deliverance—no holy water, ashes, shaking of brooms, use of symbols or any other ritual, which are all borrowed from heathen and therefore demonic sources.
- The person doing deliverance may ask a demon to reveal its name, and may ask what gives them authority in the person's life, but should not otherwise converse with the demon. Demons are deceivers, and information they give

is likely not to be reliable.

- Loud demonstrations by demons are to be discouraged. Command them to be quiet in Jesus' name.
- The cooperation of the victim is essential. Do not waste your time on someone who does not want deliverance, or on someone who refuses to come to Christ. Even if you succeed, the demons will soon return, bringing others with them.
- An exception is when a person “flips out” in demonic manifestations or under demonic control while you are trying to evangelize. This is usually a demon fighting the person coming to Christ. Command the demon to leave the person alone and allow him or her to make a decision.
- An interview should precede the deliverance which seeks to identify all possible means by which the victim may have acquired demons. The victim needs to turn from these activities or connections and deliberately rebuke them. This undermines the authority by which a demon may remain active in his or her life.
- Both believers and unbelievers may have demonic influences active in their lives. It is useless to spend time debating whether the power is inside or outside the person, since a demon sitting on one's shoulder may influence a person just as strongly as one inside. Simply address the demonic powers and do not be concerned about exactly where they are.
- If you are not certain of a person's salvation, always seek to lead him or her to Christ before deliverance. If there is overt demonic resistance, command the demons to leave the person and to allow him or her to make a decision.
- Restraint should be used only as necessary. Do not hold the person's face in your hands. If the person becomes violent to the point of hurting himself or others, he should be forced to the ground and held down. Be careful not to restrict breathing. Several strong men may be required. As soon as the victim is no longer violent, restraint should be released.

- Numerous demons are likely to be present, and more than one deliverance session may be required.
- When a session is devoted solely to deliverance, you may begin by commanding the head demon to come forward. When he leaves, he will take all his underlings with him.
- Command demons to leave quietly and take all their associates and effects with them.
- Before beginning, forbid demons to enter anyone else in the room or the families of anyone present.
- After deliverance, teaching should be given which will enable the person to maintain his deliverance. He should avoid the things that gave permission for demons to enter in the first place, pray to God daily, keep in the Scriptures and keep in close connection with other believers. Teach him that he as a believer has power to refuse demons, so any time he feels their presence or influence returning, he should refuse them in Jesus' name. It is also helpful to proactively refuse demonic thoughts and dreams before sleep.
- Go, and take authority over the enemy in Jesus' name!

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