

# CHAPTER 2

## NO OTHER GODS, PART 2



Biblical Lessons for Students, Athletes & More

### FOCAL VERSE

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you.  
Matthew 6:33

*"Idolatry happens when we take good things and make them ultimate things."*  
Timothy Keller

### CHAPTER TWO - GROUP EXPERIENCE NO OTHER GODS, PART TWO



#### Page 8

In your own words, what does Timothy Keller mean when he says, *"Idolatry happens when we take good things and make them ultimate things?"*

#### Page 9

- What is a "me ball" player? If you do not play basketball, how would you describe this type of person in relation to another sport or passion?
- Would you consider yourself to be a "me ball" player? Do you know anyone like this? How does this type of player or person make you feel?
- How can we be like "me ball" players in our spiritual lives?

#### Page 10-12

- Have class members rotate reading through the bullet points on pages 10-12. Pause to discuss each potential "false god," as you feel led.
- Have someone read the quotes below, (found on page 13), then ask the question, "Do you believe you have placed Jesus above all your other pursuits? Explain."

- *"I believe God places dreams and passions in our hearts that he wants us to pursue, but none of them are as important as the pursuit of Him."*
- *Placing him first in your life should be your daily goal, the main pursuit in the midst of all your other pursuits."*



**"Our affections will never rise to things above if we give them endless satisfaction to things below."**

*John Piper*

## NOTE TO LEADER:

- The **"Player Application" section on page 13 is critical.** We want to allow the class members to ponder the question: ***"Have I ever made a real and personal decision to commit my life to Christ; to pursue Him above anything or anyone else?"***
- Encourage the members to THINK about it, but they do not have to answer out loud unless they are prompted by the Spirit.
- Tell the members that you will stay after class if anyone wants to talk about this in more detail.
- If a student/member is "unsure" if they have ever *truly* made this decision, you may want to ask: *"Do you believe your current life is proof that you made this decision in the past?"*
- If their answer is "yes" you may want to reinforce scriptures such as John 5:24 and John 10:28.
- If the answer is "no," invite them to read the following scriptures: John 3:16, John 1:12, and Romans 10:9. Make sure you do not miss the opportunity to pray with them to receive Christ if they are ready to do so. (You may refer to the prayers on page 37-39 to guide you).
- Encourage them to keep attending the study! "The Fundamentals" of the Christian faith will follow, and may help clear up any questions they have regarding their faith walk.

## Page 13

- **Are you guilty of playing "me ball" in your spiritual life?**
- **What areas in your life are taking priority over your relationship with Jesus?**
- **What can you start doing today to tear down false gods in your life and begin pursuing Jesus as your first passion?**

## Page 16

- End with Post Game Prayer.

## A Look Ahead

Let members know that we will begin a journey through "The Fundamentals" of the Christian faith during the next session, and they won't want to miss it! Even Believers who have been following Christ for quite some time might be surprised at what they learn! The best athletes cling tightly to the fundamentals. It should be no different in your spiritual life!

**Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come into judgement but has passed from death to life.**

**John 5:24**

**I give them eternal life and they will never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.**

**John 10:28**

**For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

**John 3:16**

**Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.**

**John 1:12**

**If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**Romans 10:9**

***"I believe God places dreams and passions in our hearts that He wants us to pursue, but none so great as the pursuit of Him!"***

*Wheper*