

# FINDING OURSELVES IN GOD'S STORY

## Never Ending Story: Idolatry

1. In his message, Glen commented on the cycle of sin; 1. being handed over to enemies, 2. under oppression calling out to God for help, 3. God raises up a judge, military leader to lift the oppression, 4. all goes well for a while and the Israelites turn back to Idolatry. Where in our society do you see cycles like this one?
2. We have seen how ancient Israel often abandoned God and turned to idols, What forms of idolatry still lure Christians and the Church?
3. We have seen that the people of ancient Israel often took their relationship with God for granted, forgetting that God's blessings would come to them only as they remained faithful and obedient partners in the covenant (Deut. 30:11-20). How do we sometimes take our relationship with God for granted? What is the basis of our own covenant with God?
4. The Old Testament prophets warned about where unfaithfulness would lead the people, and also gave hope to those who were trying to live faithfully. How are these messages of hope and warning still relevant to us today?
5. In what ways do you think God's judgments still operate in our time? Is it possible to clearly identify them?
6. In his message, Glen commented on Idolatry as something that we still struggle with today. Areas Glen identified were; comfort, power, honor, pleasure, safety, personal attractiveness, alcohol, acceptance, drugs, sex, personal gratification, violence, despair, medication... as things that can become idols in our lives. Identify one or two things that may be idols for you or leaning towards idolatry in your life.

## Praying Together

Turn your conversation to God in prayer. Take a few moments of quiet to confess to God the Idols you have identified. The things you hold in greater honor than you do God. Spend some time praying and re-focus towards what God would have you focused on. Invite anyone to share needs or concerns, and pray together for one another.

Some questions were taken from Craig G. Bartholomew and Michael W. Goheen's book "The true story of the whole world: Finding your place in the biblical drama. (2009) p. 94.

