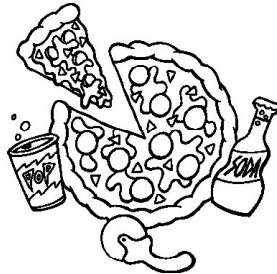
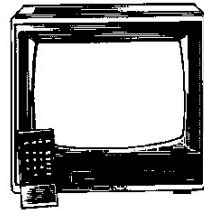
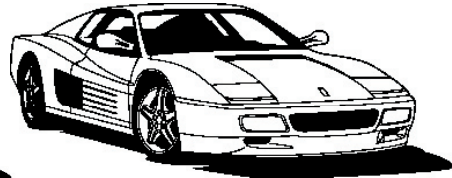


Color the things that could become an idol to us if they were more important to us than God?



These things can be nice, but God is greater than anything I can see or imagine!



On a separate piece of paper, try to write the names of everyone in your family for four (4) generations. Do you have room on one page?

Imagine 250 times four generations! God will bless that many people if I love and obey Him. God is *so* good!

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GOD WANTS TO BE MY VERY BEST FRIEND

Lesson 2 God is Greater Than Anything I Can See or Imagine

"You must not make for yourselves any idols.

Don't make something that looks like anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the water below the land. You must not worship or serve any idol.

This is because I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God. A person may sin against me and hate me. I will punish his children, even his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

But I will be very kind to thousands who love me and obey my commands."

Exodus 20:4-6, ICB

Why is God jealous? I thought it was bad to be jealous.

God wants us to understand that He does not want competition. He wants us to love Him best.



In some religions they pray to statues of their gods. Those are idols. God wants us to recognize how much greater He is than any statue or picture or person can be.

But I do not pray to idols! Does that mean the second commandment does not apply to kids like me?

An idol does not have to be a statue. Sometimes an idol can be something that is more important to you than God.

Like what?

Like that idol with 27 heads and 54 legs!

Sure you have! It runs around a field and fights with another 27-headed idol over a funny shaped ball with pointed ends.



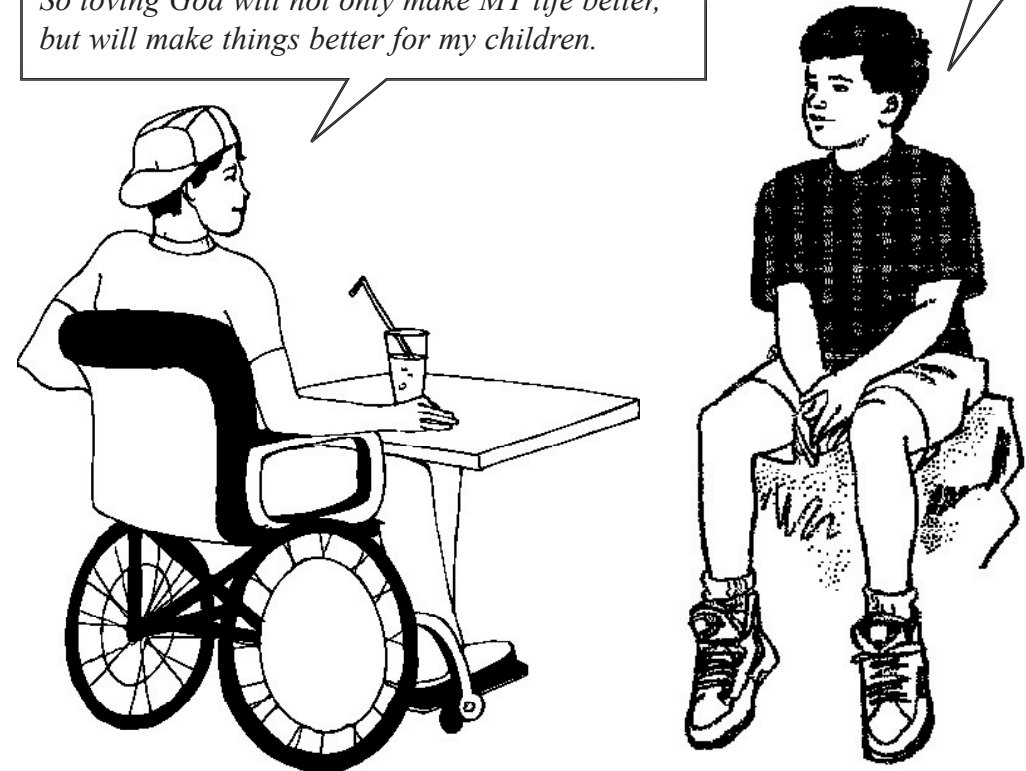
I have never heard of that one!

Or when someone's parent steals or murders someone, and has to go to jail. Their children are also hurt.

Right again. The ugly thing about living without God's rules is how many people get hurt. Not only the people who make wrong choices suffer, but their families as well, and often other people too.

Many times bad habits are passed on in families from generation to generation. Things like abuse, lying or stealing or any other bad habits can become a family chain. But God has promised to break these chains if we ask Him. He promises to show mercy to our families for a thousand generations if we love Him.

So loving God will not only make MY life better, but will make things better for my children.



What about that part where the children are punished for the sins of the fathers. That does not sound fair at all!

What do you mean?

When people reject God's way, and do not live according to His rules, often their children are hurt by their choices.

It isn't!

You mean like my friend, Jim? His mom and dad decided they did not love each other any more and got divorced. Jim's dad is married again and doing well, but Jim and his mom are having a hard time. They do not always have as much money as they need and Jim misses his dad a lot.

Yes, that is a good example.



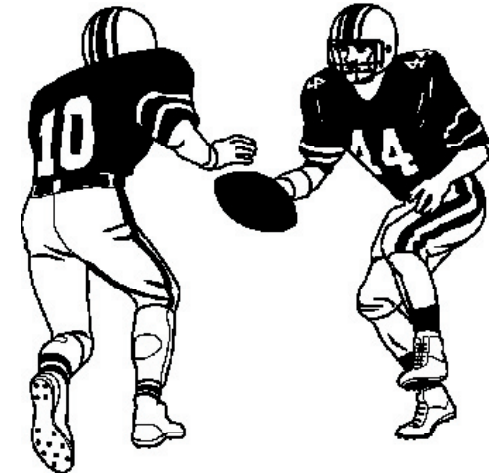
Oh, you are talking about a football team!

But a football team isn't an idol, is it?

I guess so.

Yes.

Can't a football team be more important to some people than God?



God wants His children to have fun. He does not mind them playing or watching football games. But He knows they will be the happiest if He is the most important Person in their lives.

How about that square one-eyed god people sit in front of and worship for hours, ignoring God and their families . . .

A computer or television?

Right!

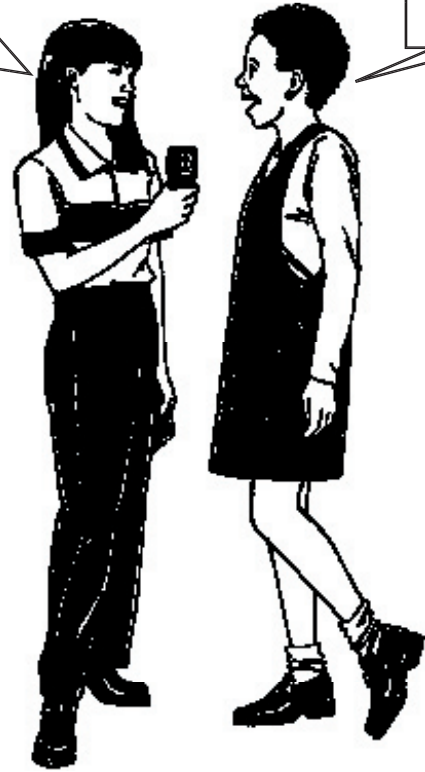
I get it! Anything can be an idol if it is more important to you than God.

Right. There is nothing wrong with football or computers or television. The problem is when you make them more important than God.



Like, if I were to dress like my favorite music group, walk like them, talk like them, and act like them, then I am making them my idols?

Could be.



So, if God is my friend, I want to dress, talk and act like I am His friend.

