

Judges 17-18

Discussion Guide: Judges 17–18

Theme: Counterfeit Worship — Creating a God in Our Own Image

Big Idea

When people reject God's Word as their authority, they do not stop worshiping—they create their own versions of worship, truth, and religion. Spiritual drift ultimately leads to spiritual deception.

Opening Icebreaker (Optional)

- Why do you think people are often tempted to customize things to fit their preferences—even when there is an established design or standard?

Discussion Questions + Leader Notes

1. What stands out about Micah and his family in Judges 17:1–6?

Leader Notes:

- Theft, superstition, idols, private worship
- There is religious activity everywhere, but little true obedience
- The problem isn't lack of spirituality; it's distorted spirituality

2. How does Micah's worship reflect the phrase, "everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6)?

Leader Notes:

- He creates his own shrine
- He appoints his own priest
- He combines elements of true worship with false worship
- He becomes the authority instead of submitting to God's authority

3. Why is Micah's religion attractive? Why might people have viewed it as acceptable?

Leader Notes:

- Convenient
- Personalized

- Familiar religious language
- Appears sincere

Discuss how sincerity alone does not make worship acceptable.

4. What do we learn about the Levite in 17:7–13?

Leader Notes:

- He should have known God's law
- Instead, he is willing to compromise for personal gain
- Spiritual leaders can contribute to spiritual decline when they abandon truth

5. In 17:13, Micah says, "Now I know that the LORD will prosper me." What does this reveal about his view of God?

Leader Notes:

- God is treated as a tool for blessing
- Religion becomes transactional
- He wants God's benefits more than God's rule

6. Why are the Danites seeking new territory in chapter 18?

Leader Notes:

- They failed to fully possess the inheritance God gave them
- Instead of trusting God, they seek an easier path
- Spiritual compromise often grows from earlier disobedience

7. How do the Danites treat Micah's priest and idols? What does this reveal about their faith?

Leader Notes:

- They steal both
- They view religion pragmatically
- Truth is less important than usefulness

8. What is ironic about Micah's complaint in 18:24?

"You take my gods that I made..."

Leader Notes:

- A god that can be stolen is not much of a god
- The absurdity of idolatry is exposed
- False gods always disappoint

9. What does the conquest of Laish reveal about the spiritual condition of Israel?

Leader Notes:

- Easy target
- No inquiry of God
- No concern for justice
- Self-interest drives decision-making

10. What does the establishment of idol worship in Dan (18:30–31) tell us about the long-term effects of compromise?

Leader Notes:

- Private compromise becomes public corruption
- One man's sin impacts generations
- Drift never remains isolated

11. What parallels do you see between Micah's religion and modern spirituality?

Leader Notes: Potential examples:

- Choosing beliefs that fit preferences
- Following Jesus selectively
- Treating God as a means to happiness or success
- Building faith around personal comfort

12. What does this section teach us about true worship?

Leader Notes:

- God determines how He is worshiped
- Worship requires submission, not customization
- Genuine worship begins with God's Word, not our preferences

Closing Application

- Where are you tempted to shape God according to your preferences?
- Are there areas where convenience has replaced obedience?
- Do you want God's blessings more than God's authority?

Gospel Connection (Leader Emphasis)

Judges 17–18 reminds us that the human heart is always worshipping something.

The problem is not that people stop worshiping God.

The problem is that they remake God into something manageable.

Jesus came not merely to improve our worship but to reconcile us to the true God.

A helpful summary:

"When people reject God's authority, they don't stop worshiping. They simply create gods that demand less and promise more. Jesus calls us back to the true King who deserves our worship and transforms our hearts."

Leader Tip

Keep bringing the discussion back to:

- Authority
- Truth
- Worship

The central issue is not idols made of silver.

The central issue is the human tendency to create a version of God that serves us instead of submitting to the God who rules us.