



# Oakwood

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## CHURCH

### May 30 Discussion Questions

#### “Kingdoms in Conflict”

Acts 19:19-27

#### ***Preview***

*“Thus says the Lord: ‘Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come.’”* Jeremiah 17:5-6

Three Layers of Idolatry:

#### **1. Practices**

- a. Taking (Jer. 17:1) v. **Giving** (v. 24, 25, 27; Jer. 17:8)

#### **2. Values**

- a. **Status** (Jer. 17:13) v. Service (v. 27; Jer. 17:14)

#### **3. Beliefs**

- a. **My** god (Jer. 17:5) v. **The** God (v. 26; Jer. 17:7)

*“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”* Jeremiah 17:7-8

## **Connect**

1. What is your favorite material thing you've ever owned? Why do you love it?
2. What things do you believe have most won the hearts of Americans? How have you seen these things develop and gain attraction in American's hearts over the years?

## **Pray & Read Acts 19:19-27**

### **Discuss & Apply**

3. What caused a great disturbance in Ephesus? What did this potentially compromise for Demetrius?
4. What is an idol? What idols did the people of Ephesus worship? In what ways are the idols of today different from the time of the early church?
5. What idols of today have masked themselves as "acceptable sins?" How do you know when something enjoyable becomes an idol? Give an example.
6. What are the three layers of idolatry mentioned in Pastor Darin's sermon? How do these relate and build upon one another?
7. If someone's activity is over-working at a job, what are their values and beliefs?
8. If someone's activity is sexually immoral behavior, what are their values and beliefs?
9. Spend time sharing an activity in your life that may have idol-like roots. What values might you have? What beliefs might you be adhering to?
10. Read Jeremiah 17:5-13. What two things are compared? What produces bad fruit? What produces good fruit?
11. What is an area of your life that you've turned over to God and experienced His life-giving fruit in?
12. Often our failure to produce fruit is directly tied to something we are not correctly believing about the Gospel. This leads us to fulfill God-given desires in abusive ways. What subtle or significant lies might you be believing that are keeping you from God's best fruit in your life?
13. How have you found God to be a "fountain of living water?" Be specific.
14. Who is the Holy Spirit bringing to your mind that needs to hear this information and be changed by the Gospel?

### **Prayer**

Similar to the Ephesians, spend time confessing the lies you've subtly believed and the idols you've subtly given yourself to. Ask for God's forgiveness and strength of Spirit to walk a new road.

### **Oakwood Prayer Focus**

Ministry Focus: Please prayerfully remember, with profound gratitude, the immense price hundreds of thousands of soldiers have paid for the sake of our political and religious freedoms.

Personal Focus: Pray Oakwood and other churches in the Tampa Bay area will remain strong in the face of opposition to the Gospel.