

What's Important in My Life?

Open with prayer ☺

Theme for today: First Commandment

Throughout our time together we will attempt to connect our daily lives with our faith.

In this session, we examine the First Commandment; which is often described by youth as one of the most difficult to understand and abide by.

Student please ask your mentor:

Do you believe in God?

What draws you to keep believing in God – even after all these years?

Now mentor ask your student:

Do you believe in God?

Sometimes faith isn't easy. How can I help show you the Christian faith?

The First Commandment: God says, **"You are to have no other gods before ME."**

Small Catechism asks: What does this mean? **"We are to fear, love and trust God above all things."**

Connecting With the Faith

Large Catechism (Excerpt Summary)

What is it to have a god? Who is Almighty God? God is good, kind, loving and where we can find refuge in time of need. As Christians, we believe in God with our whole heart; to trust with our whole heart. That to which your heart clings and entrusts itself is really your God. And as Lutherans, we believe that God comes to us... meets us as we are.

HOWEVER, many people believe in gods. Putting their trust more money, property and "stuff." Often they lack cheerfulness, as they trust and boast or have a desire for wealth. To be honest, these desires are in all of our nature in some ways. And some of us boast of great learning, wisdom, power, prestige, family, etc. But as Christians, we are to honor and trust in the one, true God. To have a God, you see, does not mean we put God into a purse/backpack, or shut God up in a box. We lay hold of God when our heart which means we embrace and cling to God in good times and bad. True worship is that of the heart - confidence in God. It's why we use a capital "G" when we talk about God – (Father, Son + and Holy Spirit) and a lower case "g" with other things. Worshipping other things or "gods" is what we call **"idolatry."** Meaning, putting more trust in things - above our trust and love of God. Wanna know more: (Please google idolatry on your phone for a greater explanation)

There is so much good that comes to us from God. God offers each of us help, comfort and salvation – all as unconditional gifts from God, to be shared with our world.

Take a minute:

Search and examine *your own heart* and ask each other, "do I cling to God or things on my own strength?"

For I am the Lord your God, mighty and jealous, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, and showing mercy to many thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:5

Reflection Questions

1 Do you believe that God (the Almighty God) is in your life?

2 Do you think idolatry is still prevalent in the world today? Do you ever experience idolatry in your own heart?

3 Do you think the first commandment is easy or hard? Please explain.

4 Any other questions?

Close our time with prayer ☺