

SMALL GROUP LESSON

YOU ARE WHAT YOU WORSHIP

ROMANS 1:21-25 AND LUKE 15:11-24

OCTOBER 16, 2016

This week's lesson is comprised of two questions and a special learning activity. In order to get the most out of your lesson, please give careful attention to both God's Word and the pastor's sermon.

1. In Romans 1:21-25 Paul describes what happens to people when they turn their backs on God. It is a four step process that can eventually lead to their destruction. Take a few moments to compare what Paul has said in the listing on the left with the pastor's description of these steps on the right. Then draw a line from Paul's words to those statements on the right which best describe what he is saying. The descriptions on the right are not in the same order as the wording on the left. So think carefully, referring to the Bible (Romans 1:21-32) and to the pastor's sermon (www.bedfordpresbyva.org) as you decide the direction in which your lines need to be drawn.

Did not honor or thank God

Became mentally depraved/debased

Exchanged the glory of God

Worshipped the creation embracing
sinful desires and passions

Traded in God's truth for lies

Futile thinking/darkened hearts

Refused to acknowledge God

Created idols looking like animals/birds

2. Compare what Paul said in Romans 1:21-32 with the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the children of Israel during their exodus from Egypt, and Jesus' parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-24. Do you see any parallels between what they did and what Paul describes in these verses in the first chapter of his letter to the Romans? Is there a pattern of behavior that begins to take over when we no longer desire to honor God?
3. Now, take a look at your own life. Have there been times when you were tempted or perhaps fell into the same downward spiral as described by Paul? For example, has there ever been a time in your life when the desire for things began to overwhelm and replace your love for God? Or how about self-esteem? Has there ever been a time when you wanted to please others so badly that you were willing to contemplate or actually sacrifice your God ordained convictions to please someone else.