

### **Monday, April 3**

- Idols in Our Culture (p. 129)
- Idols in Our Religion (p. 131)

Read **Proverbs 14:6; 21:24**. Why must we be careful of falling into “scoffer” syndrome?

### **Tuesday, April 4**

- The Mission of Jonah (p. 133)
- The Man on the Run (p. 135)

Read **Jonah 1:1-3**.

### **Wednesday, April 5**

- Jonah in the Deep (p. 137)

Read **Jonah 2:7-9**. When we cling to idols, what do we forsake?

- Race and Grace (p. 139)

Read **Galatians 2:11-14**. Why does Paul appeal to the gospel rather than the law to speak to Peter?

### **Maundy Thursday, April 6**

- The Shocking Ending (p. 141)

Read **Jonah 4:1-3**. How does Jonah’s prayer reveal his hidden idols?

### **Good Friday, April 7**

- Idols, Thinking, and Feeling (p. 145)

Read **Jonah 4:4-9**. How does idolatry distort our feelings?

### **Saturday, April 8**

- The True Jonah (p. 150)

- Jonah and Us (p. 152)

Read **Matthew 12:39-41**. Reflect on what Jesus, the Ultimate Jonah, means to you.

## **Seven: The End of Counterfeit Gods**

### **Easter Sunday, April 9**

- Nothing Is More Common (p. 154)

- The Returning Brother (p. 155)

Read **Genesis 32:6-8**. What is Jacob fearing about meeting Esau?

### **Monday, April 10**

- The Struggle for Blessing (p. 157)

- The Mysterious Stranger (p. 159)

Read **Genesis 32:24-31**. How had Jacob been wrestling for blessing all his life? What clues give away who Jacob was wrestling with?

### **Tuesday, April 11**

- Winning Through Weakness (p. 160)

- The Weakness of God (p. 162)

Read **Galatians 3:13-14** and **1 Corinthians 1:25**. Why do we find true blessing from God through His Son, Jesus?

## **Epilogue: Finding and Replacing Your Idols**

### **Wednesday, April 12**

- The Importance of Discerning Idols (p. 165)

Read **Romans 1:21-25**. Why is the breaking of every commandment a breaking of the first commandment?

### **Thursday, April 13**

- Identifying Idols (p. 167)

**Ask** God to help you identify some of the heart idols you are worshipping?

### **Friday, April 14**

- Replacing Idols (p. 171)

Read **Colossians 3:1-5**. What does it mean to “set your hearts on things above”? How does repenting and rejoicing work together?

### **Saturday, April 15**

- Putting the Gospel on Video (p. 173)

- Be Patient (p. 175)

Read **Hebrews 12:1-2**. How is “fixing our eyes on Jesus” the daily remedy for replacing the constant idols that pop up in our lives?

# **Counterfeit Gods**

## **Lenten Reading Schedule 2023**

### **Introduction: The Idol Factory**

#### **Ash Wednesday, February 22**

- A Strange Melancholy (p. xi)

What is the difference between sorrow and despair?

- A Culture Filled with Idols (p. xiii)

Read **Acts 17:16**. What idols, priests, and shrines do you see in your own city?

#### **Thursday, February 23**

- Idols of the Heart (p. xv)

Read **Ezekiel 14:3**. What are some examples of heart idols?

- Anything Can Be an Idol (p. xvii)

Read **Exodus 20:3-5**. What is meant by “other gods”?

#### **Friday, February 24**

- How to Make a God (p. xix)

**Pray** that God would be the source of your happiness, meaning, and identity.

#### **Saturday, February 25**

- Love, Trust, and Obey (p. xxiii)

Read **Romans 1:25**. What do we do with our idols?

- Opportunities of Disenchantment (p. xxv)

What is the only way to truly free ourselves from our counterfeit gods?

### **One: All You’ve Ever Wanted**

#### **Sunday, February 26**

- The Worst Thing That Can Happen (p. 1)

- The Inevitability of Idolatry (p. 3)

Read **Romans 1:24**. Why might getting our heart’s desire be the worst thing that could happen to us?

#### **Monday, February 27**

- The Call of Abraham (p. 4)

- The Second Call of Abraham (p. 6)

Read **Genesis 12:1-3** and **22:2**. How was Abraham tempted to love Isaac more than God?

#### **Tuesday, February 28**

- The Horror of the Command (p. 8)

Read **Genesis 22:1-3**. Why would Abraham even consider obeying this command?

#### **Wednesday, March 1**

- The Walk into the Mountains (p. 10)

Read **Genesis 22:4-14**. What did Abraham believe about God that made him keep going?

#### **Thursday, March 2**

- The Danger of the Best Things in the World (p. 12)

Read **Hebrews 12:1-8**. How do hardships aid our relationship with God and others?

### Friday, March 3

The Substitute (p. 16)

Read **Romans 8:32** and **1 Peter 3:18**.

**Thank** God for the substitute God the Father provided for us.

### Saturday, March 4

Your Walk into the Mountains (P. 18)

What “Isaacs” are you being asked to put on the altar to give God the central place in your life?

## Two: Love Is Not All You Need

### Sunday, March 5

The Search for Love (p. 22)

The Promise of the Messiah (p. 24)

Read **Genesis 27:30-41**.

### Monday, March 6

Jacob’s Longing (p. 26)

Read **Genesis 29:16-20**. How can the longing for a romantic relationship be a substitute for God?

### Tuesday, March 7

The Power of Love (p. 29)

Read **Genesis 1:27-29** and **Ephesians 5:25-31**. What is the relationship between romantic love and being made in God’s image?

### Wednesday, March 8

The Sting (p. 32)

The Devastation of Idolatry (p. 33)

Read **Genesis 29:21-35**. Where was Jacob, Laban, and Leah looking for happiness and identity?

### Thursday, March 9

Cosmic Disillusionment (p. 36)

Re-read **Genesis 29:25**. How does this verse illustrate what is meant by “cosmic disillusionment”?

### Friday, March 10

Male and Female Idolatries (p. 40)

Leah’s Breakthrough (p. 42)

Re-read **Genesis 29:35**. What does Leah’s name for Judah reveal about her spiritual breakthrough?

### Saturday, March 11

The True Bridegroom (p. 43)

Read **Genesis 49:10**. What is special about Judah?

The Man Nobody Wanted (p. 45)

Read **Colossians 3:1-4**. Is Jesus *your* life?

## Three: Money Changes Everything

### Sunday, March 12

Naked Greed (p. 48)

We Can’t See Our Own Greed (p. 50)

Read **Luke 12:13-21**. Why is greed in ourselves so hard to see?

### Monday, March 13

The Seductive Power of Money (p. 53)

Read **Luke 19:1-2**. Describe Zacchaeus’ reputation.

### Tuesday, March 14

Money as a Master (p. 55)

Read **Luke 16:13-15**. Why are we tempted to love, trust and obey money?

### Wednesday, March 15

The Beginnings of Grace (p. 58)

Read **Luke 19:3-7**. How did Zacchaeus approach Jesus? How did Jesus approach Zacchaeus?

### Thursday, March 16

Grace and Money (p. 61)

Read **Luke 19:8-10**. Why does Zacchaeus respond the way he does?

Grace and Deep Idols (p. 64)

What is the relationship between *deep* idols and *surface* idols?

### Friday, March 17

The Poverty of Christ (p. 66)

Read **2 Corinthians 8:9**. How does the gospel cure greed?

### Saturday, March 18

Man Must Have an Idol (p. 68)

Read **Colossians 3:5** and **Ephesians 5:5**. How do we put the idol of greed to death?

## Four: The Seduction of Success

### Sunday, March 19

Fast-Fading Satisfaction (p. 72)

How is achievement like a drug?

### Monday, March 20

The Idolatry of Success (p. 75)

Read **Psalms 135:15-18**. How do those who make idols become like them?

### Tuesday, March 21

A Culture of Competition (p. 78)

The Successful Dead Man (p. 80)

Read **2 Kings 5:1**. Why is Naaman described as a “dead man walking”?

### Wednesday, March 22

Looking in the Wrong Places (p. 82)

Read **2 Kings 5:2-7**. Why can God not be bought by our own successes and achievements?

### Thursday, March 23

Some Great Thing (p. 86)

Read **2 Kings 5:8-13**. Why was Naaman so resistant to Elisha’s prescription for healing?

### Friday, March 24

The Little Suffering Servant (p. 89)

The Great Suffering Servant (p.91)

Read **Isaiah 53**. How is the servant girl like the suffering servant in Isaiah 53?

### Saturday, March 25

The End of Idolatry (p. 94)

Read **2 Kings 5:14-16** and **1 Corinthians 1:29-31**. How did God use the weak things in Naaman’s story to *shame* him and to *save* him?

## Five: The Power and the Glory

### Sunday, March 26

A World Possessed (p. 97)

The Signs of Political Idolatry (p. 98)

Where do you see evidence of your own political idolatry?

### Monday, March 27

The Idolatry of Power (p. 101)

Read **Genesis 2:17**. Why was the fruit of this tree forbidden?

### Tuesday, March 28

Turning a Philosophy into an Idol (p. 104)

How is *ideology* related to *idolatry*?

### Wednesday, March 29

The Insecure King (p. 107)

Read **Daniel 2:1-3, 31-35**. How does having power lead to fear?

The Fear of Powerlessness (p. 109)

### Thursday, March 30

The Chastened King (p. 112)

Read **Daniel 2:46-47**. What did Nebuchadnezzar learn?

The Illusion That We Are in Control (p. 115)

Read **1 Corinthians 4:6-7**. Who gets the credit for our successes?

### Friday, March 31

The Mad King (p. 118)

Read **Daniel 4:24-32**. What attitude toward power and success was God trying to teach Nebuchadnezzar?

### Saturday, April 1

The Resurrection from the Death of Pride (p. 121)

Read **Daniel 4:34-36** and **Philippians 2:4-10**.

## Six: The Hidden Idols in Our Lives

### Palm Sunday, April 2

Introduction, The God of Profit (p. 126)

Read **Mark 8:34-38**. What “profit” are we to pursue?