BEFORE YOU MEET
1. Read Introduction and chapter 1 in *gods at war* by Kyle Idleman
2. Pray for God to help you connect with others in your small group
3. Pray for God to use this study and your small group to help you grow closer to Jesus

CONNECT
Spend time at the beginning getting to know one another. Make sure you know everyone’s name, where you live, where you work, a little bit about your family, etc.

PRAYER
Ask God to bless your time together and help you take away the lessons He would have you learn.

WATCH THE DVD PRESENTATION: *gods at War*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. Was there anything in the video presentation or in Pastor Mike’s message that raised a question in your mind or impacted your life in a new way?
2. In the video, Kyle said that “idolatry is the root of our sins.” Is this a new idea for you? Do you agree with his statement?
3. What are some of the idols/gods that people struggle with in our culture today?
4. Why does God describe Himself as a jealous God in the Bible? Why is God’s jealousy a big deal for us as we consider our relationship with God?
5. Pastor Mike mentioned that our worship of God is a big deal because He wants a relationship with us and because God knows we experience the best life possible when we are devoted to God and worship Him. Can you think of other reasons why our worship and devotion to God is important?
6. Pastor Mike talked about how what is going on in your heart impacts our actions and influences what we do. How important do you think it is to deal with our “sin” issues at the heart level instead of simply trying to change or overcome a specific sin or behavior? Do you think most people try to deal with their sin issues at the heart level or just try to quit doing whatever they know needs changed in their life?
7. In the video, Kyle suggests seven diagnostic questions for determining who or what our god or gods really are. As you read the seven questions again, what do you think about these questions as a tool for discovering our gods?
   • What has left you most disappointed?
   • For what do you sacrifice time and money?
   • What do you worry about?
   • Where do you go for comfort?
   • What makes you mad?
   • What do you dream of?
   • Whose encouragement means the most to you?
8. As you consider the questions and think about the video, is there anyone who feels comfortable sharing a “god” they are struggling to overcome in their life? (It is okay if you prefer not to answer this question.)
9. In the Bible, we read how the Israelites said they wanted to choose to serve God and God alone only to find that as time passed, they again started to worship idols. Why do you think it is hard for people to stay focused on and committed to God over the long haul? What kinds of things do you think contributes to people allowing other gods to enter into their lives?
10. What is the one lesson or truth you take away from what you heard in Pastor Mike’s message and/or the video and/or the book reading for this week?
PRAYER REQUESTS/PRAYER
Share any prayer requests that you would like people in your group to pray about this week. Take a few minutes at the end of your time together and have several people pray aloud for the requests that were shared. Make sure you pray that God would help use this study to grow in our relationship with God.

PERSONAL APPLICATION
1. As you review the diagnostic questions in question 7 above (see Chapter 2 in the book for additional explanation), do they reveal any gods in your life?
2. As you think about any struggles/sins you are dealing with in your life, why do you think you struggle with it? What do you think is the “heart” issue that is at the root of your struggle/sin?
3. What specific “god” in your life do you hope to dethrone and replace with The One True God during this series? What do you think you will need to do to defeat it and choose to serve The One and Only True God?

BEFORE NEXT WEEK
1. Read chapters 2–4 in gods at war.
2. Pray for the prayer requests that were shared in your group.

NOTES & GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS