BEFORE YOU MEET
1. Read chapters 2–4 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 and talking about the past week. Make sure you know everyone’s name.

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

FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK
1. As you have reflected on what was discussed last week in your small group and read Chapters 2–4 in the book *gods at War*, were there any new insights that challenged and/or encouraged you?
2. In the book (pages 46–47), Idleman discussed the biblical teaching that idolatry is like adultery. As you consider that analogy, what are your thoughts? How does it help you understand the seriousness of idolatry in God’s eyes?

WATCH THE DVD PRESENTATION: *gods of Pleasure*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. Was there anything in the video presentation or in Pastor Mike’s message this morning that raised a question in your mind or impacted your life in a new way?
2. The video, book and Pastor Mike’s message all gave some examples of things that can become “gods of pleasure.” What were some of the examples that were given? What are some other good or pleasurable things that can become a “god of pleasure” to people?
3. In the video it talked about how when good gifts from God take His place, it is only a matter of time until destruction follows. Do you agree with that statement? Can you give some examples from people’s lives (actors, politicians, sports figures, people you know) where you saw this happen?
4. Have someone read from pages 113–114 in the *gods at War* book (you can stop before the heading “The Church that Peyton Built”). What point do you think Kyle Idleman is trying to make? Do you agree that it is possible to let things like football or sports become a god in our life? Why do you think people get more engaged and involved at sporting events than they do with their worship of God and serving in the church? What does that say about us?
5. In the video, Paul talked about how food had become a god in his life. What made it a “god” in his life and not just simply a struggle he had with his weight because of his genetic makeup?
6. In the video, Paul said he realized “God is more interested in my healing than my comfort.” What do you think of that idea? Does it ring true with you or do you feel differently?
7. In the video, Paul noted that “nothing made sense in my life until I put Jesus in His rightful place.” Why do you think that was true for Him? How has that been true in your life?
8. Pastor Mike concluded the “gods of Pleasure” message by saying “If you have allowed a false god into your life, it won’t be enough to simply get rid of it. You have to replace it with the One True God.” Why do you think it is important to replace it instead of simply getting rid of it? How does someone replace a “god of Pleasure” with the One True God?
9. 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 reflect on your life, have you allowed any “gods of Pleasure” to become a substitute for God in your life?
2. What are some practical things you can do to “delight in the Lord”? What is your plan to begin doing those things?

BEFORE NEXT WEEK
1. Read chapters 5–6 in gods at war.
2. Pray for the prayer requests that were shared in your group.

NOTES & GROUP PRAYER REQUESTS

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