



## INVESTIGATE

### THE REMEDY FOR IDOLATRY

#### 1. Remember (v21)

The solution starts by getting our thinking straight about God. Who is he.. What has God done in history?

- V6 \_\_\_\_\_
- V7 \_\_\_\_\_
- V8 \_\_\_\_\_
- V21 \_\_\_\_\_
- V22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Remember the vision given in Isaiah 40:22-26?
- Remind yourself of God's awesome claims when he came to earth in Jesus:  
Mathew 11:28; John 6:35; John 8:12; John 10:10

How does all this give us the perfect remedy for idolatry?

#### 2. What's the second part of the remedy for idolatry (v22)

What will this mean in practice?



## PRAY IT THROUGH

- Confess any idols that have taken God's rightful place in your life.
- Acknowledge who God is... and what he has done in history.. and for you.
- Acknowledge that apart from Him there no God.
- Commit yourself to serving and trusting and loving Him.

*"Give me an undivided heart..." (Ps 86:11)*

# THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

SMALL GROUPS SHEET

WEEK BEGINNING 21 OCTOBER 2012

#### 4. Gods that fail (Isaiah 44:6-23)

Oakhall  
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



## FOR STARTERS

How would you define an idol?

Why is it that idols are so attractive and we all battle with them?

Remind yourself of the first commandment (Exodus 20:3) and what Jesus described as the greatest commandment (Mathew 22:36-37).



## BACKGROUND

After hundreds of years of idolatry and immorality and warnings from God, judgment has finally fallen on Judah. The Babylonian armies attacked and destroyed the city of Jerusalem in 586 BC and many were taken into exile.

Into that 'hopeless' situation Isaiah brought a beautiful message from God:

- *God hadn't given up on them – forgiveness was available (40:1-11).*
- *God was the all powerful creator and would channel down his strength to weak people if they would trust him and hope in him (40:12-31).*
- *God was sending his servant to introduce a new covenant, bring light to the nations and put everything right (42:1-9).*

**The big question:** would they trust in the living God in their present crisis? God's people throughout history have often found a division in their hearts. Often, we (like they) devote our energies, attention and affection to other gods. Isaiah 44 is a stinging attack on idolatry.

**Read: Isaiah 44:6-23**



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### THE RIDICULOUS NATURE OF IDOLARY

How does Isaiah expose idols as being weak in the following verses? (Try and get a feel for his humour.)

- V11 \_\_\_\_\_
- V12a \_\_\_\_\_
- V12b \_\_\_\_\_
- V13 \_\_\_\_\_ Is there sarcasm here?
- V14 \_\_\_\_\_
- V17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 40:18-20 \_\_\_\_\_

How would you summarise Isaiah's point so far? (Be as blunt as you like!) It's easy to laugh at those who bow down to blocks of wood, but how does Isaiah's message apply to modern idols?



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*Isaiah now focusses on the idols' inability to help.*

What is the problem in the following verses:

- 44:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- 46:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 41:22-24 \_\_\_\_\_

How do these verses sum up the great tragedy of idolatry then and now?

Note: He is speaking to God's covenant people, not the pagan nations.

It's easy for us to get sucked in too.