

# HELLO, I AM AN IDOL

Nicholas McDonald

Hello. I am an idol.  
Don't be afraid, it's just me. I notice you're turned off by my name: "Idol."  
It's okay. I get that a lot.  
Allow me to rename myself.  
I'm your family.  
Your bank account.  
Your sex life.  
The people who accept you.  
Your career.  
Your self-image.  
Your ideal spouse.  
Your law-keeping.  
I'm whatever you want me to be.  
I'm what you think about while you drive on the freeway.  
I'm your anxiety when you lay your head on the pillow.  
I'm where you turn when you need comfort.  
I'm what your future cannot live without.  
When you lose me, you're nothing.  
When you have me, you're the center of existence.  
You look up to those who have me.  
You look down on those who don't.  
You're controlled by those who offer me.  
You're furious at those who keep you from me.  
When I make a suggestion to you, you're compelled.  
When you cannot gratify me, I consume you.  
No—I cannot see you, or hear you, or speak back to you.  
But that's what you like about me.  
No—I am never quite what you think I am.  
But that's why you keep coming back.  
And no—I don't love you.  
But I'm there for you, whenever you need me.  
What am I?  
I think you know by now.  
You tell me.

[http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/hello-i-am-an-idol?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+tgcblog+%28The+Gospel+Coalition+Blog%29#When:05:01:00Z](http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/hello-i-am-an-idol?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+tgcblog+%28The+Gospel+Coalition+Blog%29#When:05:01:00Z)  
Accessed 6/30/15

Let's Pray:

# Sermon Notes

"When Revival Comes on God's People"

1 Samuel 7

July 30, 2017

## Introduction

1. Understanding the Background (1 Sam. 6:19 – 7:2a)

2. \_\_\_\_\_ for God's Mercy (1 Sam. 7:2b-6)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Mercy (1 Sam. 7:7-11)

4. \_\_\_\_\_ God's Mercy (1 Sam. 7:12)

Conclusion:

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of 7-30-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 29-33; Explore the Bible, Adult Leader Guide, Vol. 2, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 33-41; Explore the Bible, Quicksource Leader, Vol. 4, No. 1, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN, Fall 2008, pp. 15-18.

## Getting Started:

1. When talking with some foreign students studying at a nearby university, one young woman said she celebrates Christmas, Passover, Ramadan, and several other religious rituals as well. When asked why, she answered, "You can never be too secure. I want to cover all the bases." What are other examples of people seeking from other sources the security that only God can provide?

## Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Sam. 7:2-4.
  - a. In your own words, how would you describe the spiritual state of Israel as indicated in 7:2 and the reasons for it?
  - b. What steps did Samuel encourage to prove Israel's desire to turn back to God?
  - c. We don't often take personal inventory to identify various idols in our life. What are some things that might divide your exclusive loyalty to God? To aid you, consider the poem on page 4 entitled, "Hello, I am an Idol." Circle any categories or phrases that are convicting, possibly indicating that you have an idol.
3. Read 1 Sam. 7:5-6.

- a. In 7:6, how did the Israelites show their determination to seek the Lord only?
  - b. How can fasting benefit Christians in expressing repentance, encouraging confession, and experiencing spiritual renewal?
4. Read 1 Samuel 7:7-11.
    - a. What role did prayer play in Israel's revival (7:5-11)? How does prayer show a reliance on God for help?
    - b. What situations do you need to pray about, on behalf of others or for your own sake?
  5. Read 1 Samuel 7:12-14.
    - a. How did Israel commemorate God's work?
    - b. Why is it important to remember God's work in our lives?
    - c. How have you commemorated God's help in your life? How has your church commemorated God's help?
  6. In what area do you need to agree the Lord can help you? How can you show you trust the Lord alone as your Deliverer?