

**FAMILY LESSONS ON  
THE TREASURE OF HEAVEN**

**Based on Matthew 6:24**

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**LESSON #2**

**AMERICAN IDOL**

**“No one can serve two masters.**

**Either he will hate the one and love the other, or  
he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.**

**You cannot serve both God and Money.”**

*Matthew 6:24 (NIV84)*

What kind of idol worship exists in our country? How is it similar to or different from idolatry in other places? What would it be like if you came to school and discovered that all the students and teachers had small idols sitting on their desks to worship throughout the day? You would probably find that disturbing. But the truth is we do bring our idols to school, right into the classroom, the hallways, the lunchroom, and the playground. And they are the most dangerous kind of idols, because they are hard to see. We don't usually carry them in our hands or around our neck; but we do carry them in our heart, the place where idolatry ultimately exists.

What is an idol? It can be anything in which we place our trust; anything that becomes so important that it starts to rule our lives. It can be a toy, a video game, a sport, a group of friends, the way we look, the way we talk, the way we act. None of these things by themselves are bad. But always remember that even a good thing can become a bad thing if it becomes a ruling thing. The Bible teaches that the only thing that should rule our life is God, our heavenly master. And there is good reason for that. God, His Word and His Kingdom are the only things that will last. Look around you. What do you see? God says all of it will pass away someday (Psalm 102:25-27). The only thing that will remain is God, His Word and His Kingdom (Matthew 24:35; Daniel 6:26).

*Why does Jeremiah call an idol “a scarecrow in a melon patch” (Jeremiah 10:5)? Some idols are made with our hands, some with our hearts, but what is the real problem with all idols (Isaiah 44:14-20)?*

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to [www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse](http://www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse) on the Immanuel Christian School website.