



## MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

### God's Way: Session 3

#### God Cannot Be Improved

Key Statement: The Second Commandment 1) shows that God is jealous for us, 2) helps us have a proper view of God, and 3) protects us from corrupt behavior.

::CONNECT::

#### Option 1: Role-Play & Character Flaws

- Encourage students to come up with a list of character flaws, preferably flaws with which they themselves struggle.
  - E.g., a quick temper, disrespect, impatience, frustration, etc.
- Split students into pairs, and assign each pair one of the character flaws.
- Explain that they are going to role-play; one of them will portray a Christian person who is struggling with that particular character flaw. The other will play a Christian ministering to the first. Specifically, the way the second student should minister is by talking to the individual about how they need a bigger view of God (this activity is playing off the third point in the lesson). For example, if the character flaw is a quick temper, have the second student minister by pointing out how slow-tempered and longsuffering God is and how we have His Spirit in us; we are His seed (1 John 3:9), and so we should be constantly being conformed to His image.
- End the activity by explaining how the Second Commandment forbids us from having too flat or two-dimensional a view of God in Messiah Jesus, and so ensuring that we realize how great, magnificent, and all-sufficient He is.

#### Option 2: Self-Definition

- Note: this activity should only be done with a safe group, or at least with safe, mature volunteers. By the nature of what we're going to do, it could turn hurtful very quickly.
- Call for a few volunteers from the group. (Consider calling on three or four, but change the number depending on the size of your group and how much time you have.)
- Starting with the first volunteer, guide him or her to write down three words that they think describe themselves. At the same time, lead each person in the remainder of the group to write down three words that they think describe the first volunteer.
- Next, encourage students to share the words they came up with (or as the leader, you can collect these and read them yourself). Then, have the volunteer share his or her

- three words. See how much overlap there was, or how differently the volunteer perceived himself from how the rest of the group perceived him or her.
- Repeat this activity with every volunteer.
  - When all the volunteers have gone, point out that what we think of ourselves is often different from how others see us. In the same way, if God (the only One in the universe who perfectly knows Himself) wants us to know who He truly is, He must reveal Himself to us; we cannot “make a graven image” by defining Him in our own minds. Thankfully, He *has* revealed Himself through Jesus and the Bible.

## **:: CONVEY ::**

If you are pressed for time this week, consider spending the majority of your Convey time by focusing on points two and three of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

## **:: COLLIDE ::**

See Leader Guide