



# KING OF GLORY

A LUTHERAN COMMUNITY

One God

Point: Would it surprise you to learn that there really is no such thing as an atheist? There are people who call themselves atheists, people who say they don't have a god, but really, they do. If you dig deep enough, if you scratch hard enough, eventually you will get down to someone's core values. Everyone has something that is of ultimate importance to them. Some people call it a "god", some call it a "higher power", some people deny they have it. In his book, Dynamics of Faith, theologian Paul Tillich calls it a "center of Being". He says that everyone has one. For some it may be alcohol or a drug; for others, food. Some people make success or money their god. Another person may idolize a person... maybe a spouse, or a hero of some kind. For Christians, it is God.

God makes it pretty clear that there can be only one God. Remember that He gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites during a time when there were many different gods that people worshipped. The Pharaoh himself was considered by the Egyptians to be a god. Remember that later on, while Moses was on the mountain, the Israelites went back to their old ways and started worshipping a golden calf. Back then people had many gods to pick from.

We think of ourselves as being much more sophisticated in our faith now. But really, many of these false gods still exist. Plus, we keep creating new ones for ourselves that we show with our actions. God wants to be our one and only God. And as God's children, our responsibility is to respect, love and trust God.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:4-6

Questions:

1. The point is to get kids to think about what is important to them. Students need to think of 3 things other than the clothes on their backs that they can keep. What do they hold most near and dear? Why did they choose those things? What is special?
2. Talk a little about the concept of "center of being". Explain that everyone has a center like this. Think of people they know who have a center like this that is not God? As a group come up with 5 things that can become the center of being. How does something become a "center of being"?



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3. This sounds like an easy question, but really can become complicated. What makes something positive or negative? Some can be negative (drugs/alcohol). But if a person's "god" is money, does that hurt anyone? If a person idolizes a sports hero, what is the harm? One thing we need to help students do is to differentiate between what people are into versus what is their center of being. It is not bad to be a fan of an athlete, but what about when it takes over your life? As a Christian God needs to be our center of being. If something or someone is there is no room left for God.
4. Read Ephesians 4:4-6. What does this say about God? What does it say about these other things that sometimes people make into gods? Is there a theme from this passage..... The idea/word of ONE. This is a passage about unity-unity based on the one God.
5. We have always had problems with the word fear. The word respect is often a substitute for the word fear.
6. We communicate through our words and our actions.



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Student Questions:

1. Suppose that you were forced to make a choice. You have to give up everything that you own, except for the clothes that you are wearing, and 3 things. What would be the three things that you would keep?

A.

B

C

Why did you choose those things?

2. Everyone has things or people that are extremely important to them. Sometimes though, these things become too important.... Everything the person does revolves around these things. These things become like a god to these people. As a group come up with 5 things that can become like a god to people.

1

2

3

4

5



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3. Are these things healthy or unhealthy for the person? Why?
4. As a group, read together Ephesians 4:4-6. What does this say about god? What does it say about these other things that sometimes people make inot gods?

5. Now read the First Commandment and its meaning:  
**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

What does Luther mean by "...fear, love, and trust.....?"



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6. How do we communicate to God and to others that God is our only God?