

**Big Idea: Nothing halts onward progress faster than backward gods.**

Onward people must navigate through territory scattered with backward gods.

**Remember the superior goodness of your real God. (v. 1-5)**

Take time to recount the ways God has shown his goodness in the following areas:

- Salvation
- Family
- Financial
- Health
- Church

Do you ever have a hard time believing God is good when you perceive things to be not so good? When? How does this impact your life?

**1. Reject the inferior promises of backward gods. (v. 6-16)**

A “backward god” is a false god that competes as a rival for your worship of the True God. To what degree do you feel like you are living in a land scattered with backward gods?

What is a god? A god is any power or influence that seeks to...

- Define your identity
- Govern your autonomy
- Receive your worship
- Complete your happiness
- Secure your future

Who have you given the right to determine these things? God or backward gods?

What are the backward gods of our land? Where are their places of worship? Who are their evangelists? What is their gospel?

- **Backward gods never demand exclusive worship. (v. 6-7)**

Worship is simply ascribing worth to something or someone. What are the signs that you have mixed the worship of the True God with backward gods? To what degree have the gods you listed earlier attracted your worship?

- **Backward gods possess deceptive power. (v. 12-13)**

God made the human heart to be a love factory. We worship what we love. Has the love of another person ever pulled your worship away from God? Explain.

Has the fear of losing someone or something ever pulled your worship away from God?

- **Backward gods will take what you once possessed. (v. 14-16)**

What are the consequences of mixing the worship of backward gods with the True God?

What have you lost by giving your affection to backward gods?

Read Joshua 23:8-11. What must you do to return to true worship of the true God?

Additional Scripture

- Exodus 20:3-5
- Isaiah 2:7-8
- Romans 1:21-25
- 1Peter 4:3-5
- 1John 5:21