



## Community Group Study Guide

### Getting Started: Reflection

Where and when was the last time you saw a real, “live” idol?

Have you heard and thought about John Calvin’s famous phrase “the heart is an idol factory”. What do you make of it?

### Context

1. What did we learn about the tribe of Dan back in Judges 1?
2. What references in Judges 17-18 also occur in the story of Samson? What is the author doing by connecting these?
3. The author focused on 12 Judges for quite a while, but now he addresses the Levites and the everyday Israelite. Why?

### Observation

1. There is no hero in this story. What are the flaws of the main characters?
2. Micah’s name means “Who is like YHWH?”. How does he fail to live up to his namesake?
3. What motivated Micah? The Levite? The Danites?
4. What are the evidences of “melting pot” or syncretistic worship, instead of true worship of the LORD?
5. Idolatry involves breaking the law. Who broke the 10 Commandments? And how so?

## **Meaning**

1. Judges is about Israel's downward spiral into rebellious idolatry. The author's commentary in Judges 17:6 and 18:1 provides insight into his main concern in recounting this history. What is his point? How would you summarize it in your own words?
2. Why does the author close this story by contrasting the house of the LORD in Shiloh and the shrine in Dan?
3. How does "success" sometimes look like God's blessing?

## **Application**

1. How have you seen the dangers of idolatry evident in your own life — in your thoughts, desires, and actions? What have you trusted in, in the place of God?
2. What "home-brew" ways of worship have you concocted?
3. What "melting-pot" forms of worship have you observed inside the Christian church?
4. Give thanks: where have you seen Jesus teach you to worship him in spirit and truth?
5. How would you help someone who thinks they worship God the right way, but who is doing it in their own eyes?