Exodus 20:1-6

**God Comes First/American Idols**

**Discussion Questions**

1. Can you give some examples of everyday relationships and how they are regulated by guidelines or accepted standards of behavior? (work, family, friends, etc.) What happens when these “rules of relationship” are not followed?
2. How important are these guidelines in maintaining and protecting community?
3. Are there any examples from our legal system that demonstrates just punishment and just compensation for those harmed by breaking the law? Why is this important?
4. Discuss the following statement: “Most of our potential gods seem to be good things. They are just good things that become the main thing.”
5. Describe in your own words the following gods of America:
* Self
* Sacrifice
* Sex
* State
* Science
* Society
1. Describe how each “substitute” affects our relationships with God and people.
* Money
* Ego
* Fame
* Objects
* Activity
* Church
1. Which of these gods are the most dominant in the world in which you live on a daily basis? How are they **not** expressions of love?
2. Which are the most subtle? Which are the most damaging? Why?
3. What tangible steps can we take personally and as a church community to challenge people to worship the One True God?
4. God is described as “a jealous God.” What is a negative aspect of jealousy? The positive side of jealousy? How is jealousy protective?