



# COLLEGE GOLF FELLOWSHIP

**COUNTERFEIT GODS  
BY TIMOTHY KELLER**

**CGF Workbook**



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# CHAPTER 01

## ***All You've Ever Wanted***

How did the mother's "love" for her children destroy them? What things do you most live for? pp. 1-4

What was God's promise to Abraham? What was significant about Issac? pp. 4-6

What did God tell Abraham to do with Isaac? Why would Abraham understand that his "firstborn's life was forfeit"? ppl 6-10

How did Abraham have the ability to go up the mountain to do what God told him to do? pp. 10-13

How is God's "rough treatment" of Abraham (and us at times) actually merciful? pp. 13-16

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# NOTES

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Who is the true substitute for us? How does God's true substitute show that He is not only just, but loving? pp. 16-18

How can we "follow the call of God when times seem at their darkest and most difficult"? pp. 18-21



When we know that God is perfectly loving and just above all else, then  
we can trust Him above all else.

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# CHAPTER 02

## ***Love Is Not All You Need***

How do “we know when a good thing has become a counterfeit god”?  
pp. 22-24

Why was Jacob so infatuated with Rachel? pp. 26-29

Why is it that sex and romance are so powerful and enslaving that they  
could even be considered a drug? pp. 29-33

How was Jacob’s idolatry of Rachel destructive to himself and Leah? In  
turn, what was Leah making an idol? pp. 33-36

When we come to understand that the things we idolize “evade us,” what  
are the “four things” we can do? pp. 36-39

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# NOTES

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How does seeing the Lord as “The True Bridegroom” give Leah and us the power to overcome idolatry? pp. 42-45

Why should “The Man Nobody Wanted,” be “my loveliness, my life, my light, Beauty alone to me”? pp. 45-47



The love of God displayed through Christ on the Cross is the only love  
that will never evade us.

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# CHAPTER 03

## ***Money Changes Everything***

Why, before doing his sermon series on the “7 deadly sins,” did the author’s wife tell him that he would have the lowest attendance when he talked about greed? pp. 50–53

What are the 3 things that money idolaters are? Why is greed so dangerous? pp. 53–58

Why was Zacchaeus’s climbing of the tree a sign of his desperation? Why was everyone offended when Jesus told Zacchaeus that he was going to eat at his house? pp. 58–61

Why are New Testament believers no longer under the “tithe”? How should the grace of our salvation shape our giving and view of money? pp. 61–64

What is a “deep idol”? How can each one of these “deep idols” use money as a “surface idol”? pp. 64–66

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# NOTES

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Why is believing in “The Poverty of Christ” on the Cross the only thing that can truly set us free from the idol of money? pp. 66–71



Through the lens of the Gospel, our view of money can be restored to its  
Godly purpose as a tool for service and stewardship.

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# CHAPTER 04

## ➔ ***The Seduction of Success***

How do you relate to the examples of success idolatry in these first few pages? pp. 72-75

What are 3 signs that show us we have made success an idol? pp. 75-78  
How does our “culture of competition” today drive the idol of success?  
pp. 78-80

What disease does Naaman have? How/why is the way he is approaching God to heal him all wrong? pp. 80-85

Why was Naaman so angry at the proposed way of healing? How can you relate to his frustration? pp. 86-89

What makes the slave girl the most important and jaw dropping character in the story of Naaman? pp. 89-91

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# NOTES

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How does the way that Jesus accomplishes salvation ironically set us free from idolizing our accomplishments? pp. 91-96

## ***Take Away***

The world says, "you must do in order to be valued." Jesus says, "you are valued because I've already done it."

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# CHAPTER 05

## ***The Power and The Glory***

What are some of the “signs of Political idolatry”? What are we ultimately making a “god” when we idolize politics? pp. 98-103

What is the definition of “ideology”? What are some examples of ideology talked about? Why is ideology close kin to idolatry? pp. 104-107

How are fear and pride beneath the idol of power? Have you seen this in your own life? pp. 107-112

What is “moralistic, therapeutic, deism”? Why does it not line up with reality? pp. 115-118

In what ways did God lovingly warn Nebuchadnezzar about his pride? Has there been a time where you have ignored God’s warning in your life? pp.112-115, 118-121

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# NOTES

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How does the pursuit of becoming “more than human” (a god), ironically make us “fall to become lower than human beings”? pp. 121-122

Who is the only “One” that can release Eustace, Nebuchadnezzar, and us from the disastrous desires of power and pride? pp. 122-125

## ***Take Away***

Our pursuit of power ultimately leads to enslavement, but “Jesus lost all power and served, in order to save us.”

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# CHAPTER 06

## ***The Hidden Idols in Our Lives***

According to Delbanco, what are the “3 phases of American civilization”?  
pp. 129–131

What are the different ways in which religion can become an idol? pp.  
131–133

What was Jonah’s mission from God and why did he resist it? pp. 133–136

What did Jonah finally realize inside the fish? What is it that blinded Jonah  
and blinds us from this revelation? pp. 137–141

Why do idols distort our thinking and perspective? How was this true for  
Jonah? How have you seen this in your own life? pp. 141–150

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# NOTES

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What are the similarities and differences between Jonah and Jesus? How does seeing Jesus as “The True Jonah” release me of my idols and lead me to bow at His feet? pp. 150-153



Jesus, as the True Jonah, was thrown into the ultimate storm to set me free from the bondage of my empty idols and give me life.

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# CHAPTER 07

## ***The End of Counterfeit Gods***

Why can we not simply cut idols out of our lives? What must we replace it with? pp. 154-157

What was Jacob looking for from his father? How is that the same for us? pp. 157-158

How was Jacob “victorious” in his wrestling match with God? pp. 157-162

How did the “weakness” of God save Jacob’s life and our lives? pp. 162-163

Why is the Gospel not merely words, but “existential reality”? Why is that the only blessing that “makes idols unnecessary”? How have you experienced God’s blessing in releasing you from some of the idols in your life? pp. 163-164

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# NOTES

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The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only true reality that can release us from  
the idols in our lives.

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