

# SESSION 1 | HOMEWORK

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## MONTHLY BOOK | BO'S CAFE

- The goal of a net-out is to help members read with greater intentionality and application.
- See the “Net-Out Example” handout.
- Four parts of a net-out include:
  - a brief summary of the book
  - key insights
  - personal application
  - key quotes
- Keep “net-outs” to one page.
- Bring printed copies to each meeting for everyone in the group.

## MONTHLY FOCUS | PURPOSE

**VERSE** | John 10:10\*

**CONTEXT** | John 10:1-21

**PRAYER** | God, in what ways do you hope I experience more life?

*\*Be prepared to quote the first memory verse. You will be called on to recite these verses, including the keyword and the reference. Spend time each month meditating on the verse, reading the context for the verse, and praying the monthly prayer.*

## ASSIGNMENT | MARRIED MEN

### LETTER FROM YOUR WIFE

- For this assignment, you will ask your wife to write you a letter answering the question: “What do you hope I will gain from this group?”
- Tell her that it is your desire to leverage this experience to become a better person and that her input and insight into areas of needed growth will be helpful for your awareness.
- When you receive the note, do not respond with any clarifying questions. Simply leave her a note or tell her that you are thankful for her help.
- Let her know that you love her and are grateful for her.

## ASSIGNMENT | SINGLE MEN

### BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE

- Think about someone in your life you have a strained relationship with. It could be someone who has wronged you, who annoys you, or a broken relationship.
- Read Luke 6:28 and Mark 5:44.
- Pray about how the Lord would like you to relate to or think about this person and how our heavenly Father sees them.
- Do something to bless them. Make it something that just expresses love to them without any strings attached or expectations of a response.
- Pray for the relationship and for this person over the month.
- Come prepared to share what you did and what has happened in your heart.

# NET-OUT EXAMPLE

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*Counterfeit Gods*

Net-out by Brad Pitt

## BRIEF SUMMARY |

*Counterfeit Gods* shows how idolatry creeps into core areas of a Christian's life. Keller teaches the reader about the prevalence of idolatry in the Bible and in the human heart. Keller deals with some of life's biggest idols: love, money, success, and power.

## KEY INSIGHTS |

- Our hearts are “idol-making factories” that transform the good gifts God blesses us with into an “ultimate possession” in our lives, replacing God in our affections.
- The Idols At A Glance:
  1. Love Idol: Misplaced desires for romance set us up for destructive and unfulfilling relationships with our spouse. Declaring romance as the only thing a person needs for a meaningful life offers unrealistic expectations and can have disastrous consequences.
  2. Money Idol: Lures of wealth and success are contrary to the gospel of Christ, who came in poverty and suffered. Greed is a dangerous and pervasive idol, so much so that most people are unaware of their own overindulgence.
  3. Political Idol: Socioeconomic brackets convince us that our income and spending is average, when most of us have a standard of living like that of royalty compared to the rest of the world.
- The great deception of idols is that we are led to believe they are only bad things. But evil is far more subtle and deceptive. “The greater the good, the more likely we are to expect that it can satisfy our deepest needs and hopes.”

## PERSONAL APPLICATION |

- I've recognized several key idols in my life after reading this book. I'm convicted to constantly ask the Lord to have mercy on me, a broken sinner who puts him second all too often.
- Understanding that the human heart is an idol factory, I must steep myself in Scripture to root them out, turn to Christ to find forgiveness, and rely on the gospel as my power source for finding ultimate freedom from them.
- I've discovered my idols are all good things in my life. The solution: not to love the good things God has blessed me with less, but to love the best blessing more—His Son. Any other path will lead to enslavement to my flesh.

## MEANINGFUL QUOTES |

- “A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living.” (p. 34)
- “When people say, ‘I know God forgives me, but I can't forgive myself,’ they mean that they have found an idol whose approval is more important than God's.” (p. 63)
- “Fear-based repentance makes us hate ourselves. Joy-based repentance makes us hate the sin.” (p. 101)