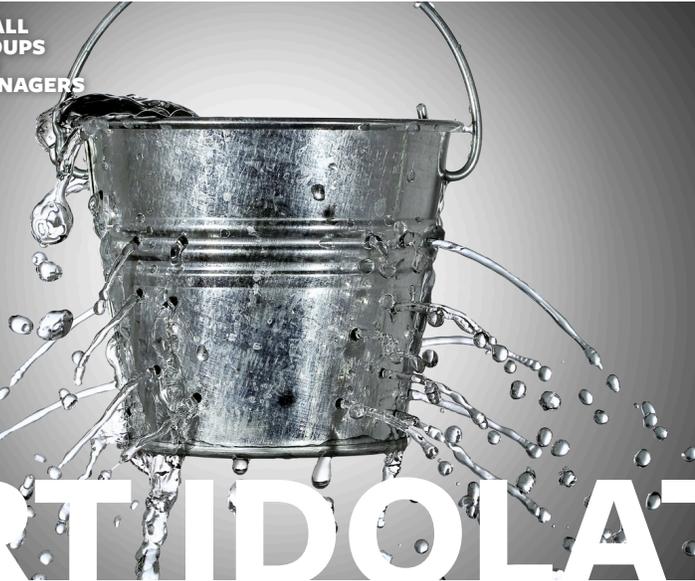


**THRIVE** SMALL  
GROUPS  
FOR  
TEENAGERS



# HEART IDOLATRY

LOVING OTHER THINGS MORE THAN GOD WILL LEAVE US EMPTY

## LAUNCH:

Someone gave Maria a bucket, asked her to fill it with water from a pond, and walk across a large field to water flowers on the other side of the field. She didn't realize it at first, but the bucket had several holes in the bottom of it. So Maria filled the bucket with water, but it was almost empty by the time she crossed the field and got to the flowers. How would you feel about this if you were Maria?

## EXPLORE:

1. Read Jeremiah 2:1-2, which is part of a message God gave to his people through his prophet, Jeremiah, several hundred years before the time of Christ. A prophet brought messages from God to his people. How did God's people start out in their relationship with him?
2. Read Jeremiah 2:4-8? Summarize what happened to God's people in their relationship with him.
3. Jeremiah 2:5 says, "They walked after emptiness and became empty." What do you think this means?
4. Read Jeremiah 2:9-13. Why did the Lord want to fight with his people (verse 9)?

## APPLY:

5. Why do you think we sometimes start out loving the Lord but drift away from him over time?
6. In what ways have you struggled with letting a good thing become a "God thing" in your life?
7. How can you relate to what Jeremiah 2:5 says: "They went far away from me and walked after emptiness and became empty"? How is this like Maria's experience of trying to water flowers with a bucket that's filled with holes?
8. Sometimes we go far away from Jesus because he doesn't seem as satisfying to us as some of the things we pursue. Why does he sometimes seem less satisfying to us than other things?
9. Read John 10:10. How does knowing Jesus as the source of life in all its fullness (i.e.: "the fountain of living waters") help us resist the temptation to seek satisfaction in things outside of God?
10. What's a practical step you can take to be satisfied in Jesus so that it's not as easy for good things to become "God things" in your life?