

# Handbook for ministry with former trokosi

## Recognizing and getting cleansing from the roots of demonic powers

### Note to the teacher—How to use this manual

This section is NOT to be read to the student. This is an explanation to help you the teacher understand how to use this manual.

**How to Begin--**Begin by reading the introduction to the student and explaining it.

**How many topics each teaching session?** The manual is divided by topics that are found in large type. Normally you should cover one topic in each teaching session. If you have only a short time, or if there is much discussion and reaction, you may need to use two teaching sessions for one topic. You should NOT try to do more than one topic in each teaching session.

**In what order?** After reading them the Introduction to This Series, the lessons can be taken in any order. Normally you would go through the lessons as they are listed, but if the student is having struggles in a particular area, it is fine to skip directly to that lesson before doing the others.

**The parts of each lesson--** Each lesson is based on one or more short Scripture passages that you will read to the student slowly, expressively, and in their native tongue. With longer passages, you will read the whole thing and then go back and read it again in smaller segments.

Each lesson also contains a series of questions to cause the student to think about the Scripture. If they have trouble answering, read again the portion or phrases of Scripture that give the answer. If they disagree or give their own opinion, just say, “For now we only need to understand what the Scripture says in this verse. Then you can decide what to do with it.”

Some lessons also have an introduction that can just be read to the student and explanations to be read to the student. These explanations help the student to better understand the Bible passage, for example, by telling when and why it was written.

Each lesson concludes with an application asking the student to respond to the lesson. This is called “**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**” If the student is ready, encourage her to take these steps. If she is not ready, ask why. Give her time to think it over and assure her of your prayers. Later you can ask her if she is ready to respond. Each time there is a positive response, another layer of demonic influence can be peeled off her life.

**Breaking demonic influences, layer by layer—**When someone has been involved in idol worship, there are probably many layers of evil spirits attached to their life. Every time the person repents of an evil practice, she can the demons associated with that practice to leave in Jesus’ name. They will begin to go. It is like peeling the layers of an onion off, layer by layer. It may take time, but encourage the woman to keep on peeling. As the onion gets smaller as you

peel off each layer, the influence of evil spirits gets less each time she repents and prays for deliverance. One day she will find that she is completely free! (Teacher, you may want to carry an onion to illustrate this truth.)

**If there is rejection of a particular teaching**—Do not try to force acceptance. This is the job of the Holy Spirit and you cannot do it. Try to make sure the person truly understands what the Bible teaches. Try to discover WHY they are rejecting that teaching. Is there some confusion? What is their thinking? Report rejection on your reports so that we can all be praying with you very specifically about these issues.

Also, give time for teaching to soak in. You can go on to something else and come back to anything that is problematic.

Do not become angry, and do not break your relationship with the person. Tell them you still love them and will keep praying for them.

**Keeping records**—It is important that you, the counselor, write down which lessons have been given to each student so that you will know which ones still need to be given. It is also important to write down the response to each lesson.

**Reporting discoveries**—The questions asked in this series may lead to discovery of more information about shrines and shrine practices that may be useful to us as we seek to liberate trokosi and to evangelize shrine practitioners. Please write down and report any information discovered so we can add it to our database of information.

**Teach yourself first**—The Scripture says, “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?” (Romans 2:21a) As you study these lessons, you will undoubtedly find parts where you yourself have not yet fully repented and been cleansed. Before you teach another, teach yourself first. Tell God that you are sorry and seek His forgiveness and cleansing. If demonic powers associated with that area are still bothering you, seek help from a Christian friend in praying against and delivering you from their powers in the name of Jesus Christ. When you are free, you will be in a better position to help others.

**Using the book to answer questions or concerns**—In addition to using this manual to give weekly lessons, you can also use it to answer specific questions or concerns. Look up the topic of concern in the Index. Use the Bible verses and questions to guide help people answer their own questions.

**Report other areas of concern**—As you find other questions or other areas of concern which are common amongst former trokosi but are not covered in this book, please report them to us so that we can develop teaching for those areas.

## Introduction to This Series

**Introduction:** There was a young man who took a group of secondary school students on a trip to the Congo River. At first they enjoyed the beauty of the river and they enjoyed swimming in it. But suddenly one of the students got caught in a very strong current. It pulled her into a whirlpool. The water kept going around and around, sucking her down. The young man was a very strong swimmer, so he tried to rescue her. But he, too, got caught in the whirlpool and went down. His body was never recovered.

The Bible warns us about some practices that are like that whirlpool. They make look good in the beginning, but they are deceptive. They suck us in and then they lead to death. They are practices that may look like they come from God, but they come from God's enemy Satan to pull us away from God. We will be looking at some of those destructive practices and learning about the better life that God wants to give us in its place.

If you have been involved in idol worship, there are probably many layers of evil spirits attached to your life. Every time you repent of an evil practice, tell them to leave. They will begin to go. It is like peeling the layers of an onion off, layer by layer. It may take time, but keep peeling. As the onion gets smaller as you peel off each layer, the influence of evil spirits gets less each time you repent and pray for deliverance. One day you will find that you are completely free!

## There are two sources of power and wisdom—only two

### Challenge to think about:

#### Do you agree with this statement?

#### There are two sources of power, wisdom, etc. available: God, and God's enemy Satan.

(Teacher's note—Most Africans will agree with this statement, even in the shrines. No matter what the response, simply say, "This is what the Bible teaches. It teaches that there are two sources of power and of wisdom that we as humans can call on. There is the power and wisdom that comes from God, and there is the power and wisdom that comes from God's enemy, Satan.)

**God is the best source:** of power, of wisdom, of knowledge about the future, of protection or safety, of health and life.

### Why?

Because God's ability is unlimited. Satan's is strictly limited, but he has so much more than we do that it seems great to us. Yet in comparison to God, his power is severely limited and greatly inferior.

**Read Proverbs 21:30:** "There is no wisdom, or understanding, or counsel against the Lord."

#### Ask: According to this verse;

- Whose wisdom can stand up against the Lord's? (No one's)
- Whose understanding is greater than the Lord's (No one's)
- Whose counsel is better than the Lord's? (No one's)
  
- So then, would Satan's wisdom and understanding and counsel be better, or would God's be better? (God's would be better.)
  
- So then, would there be any angel or any spirit of any kind whose wisdom and understanding and counsel would be better than God's? (God's would always be better.)

**Read Prov. 21:31:** "The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord."

**Explain:** In Bible times, strong armies used horses in battle. Today we might say guns or trucks are prepared for the day of battle. Deliverance is a word that means getting freed by getting victory over an enemy.

#### Ask: According to this verse:

- When we are oppressed by an enemy, who is the only one who can give us deliverance or victory? (only the Lord)
- Even if we have something very strong like horses, will that help us? (No. Only the Lord can give deliverance.)

- Since deliverance is of the Lord, will it help us to seek other spirits? (No.)
- To seek help at the shrine? (No, because those are other spirits operating there, not the Lord.)
- To seek help from idols? (No, because deliverance is not of idols. Deliverance is of the Lord.)
- To seek help from Saint Mary or other saints? (No, because deliverance is not of Saint Mary or any other saint, but of the Lord.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- From which of the two powers am I seeking help?
- Do I understand that if I am seeking power from any spiritual source other than God, I am seeking it from deceptive spirits that are the enemy of God?
- Everyone involved in the shrines at any level has sought help from God's enemy to one degree or another. Have I repented of this? Have I sought God's forgiveness and cleansing, or will I do so right now?
- From whom will I seek help from now on?

## Who is God's enemy & what is his intention toward us?

**We know that God is all good and intends good toward us His creatures. But what does the Bible tell us about Satan, God's enemy?**

**Read John 10:10 (These are the words of Jesus. "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.")**

- What does Jesus call Satan? (The thief)
- Jesus says that Satan does three things to us. What three things does Satan do or try to do? (Steal, kill, destroy.)
- What does steal mean? (Let them explain. Taking something from someone that belongs to them.)
- What do you think Satan tries to steal from us? (There are many possibilities. Joy, contentment, a good life, even life itself, our friendship with God and much more.)
- What does kill mean? (To end someone's life.)
- What does destroy mean? (To ruin or spoil something)
- What does Satan want to destroy in our lives? (Our happiness, our peace of heart, our homes, our families, our lives—anything and everything he can)
- How is Jesus different from Satan? (Satan comes to kill and destroy our lives but Jesus comes to give us life abundantly.)
- Does Jesus have any bad intention toward us? Does He want anything bad for us? (No, it is Satan who wants bad things for us. Jesus wants us to have abundant life.)
- What is abundant life? (A good life, a life where you are at peace in your heart and with others, a life where you are at peace with God, a life where your needs are met, a life of friendship with God, a life of joy, a life of helping others)
- If we seek Satan and his spirits, what do we get? (We lose what we have because he steals it. We get death and destruction.)
- If we seek the Lord Jesus Christ, what do we get? (Abundant life, a good life.)

**When you were participating in the rituals of the shrine, whose help were you seeking—God's or Satan and his spirits?**

When you were in the shrine, you learned many practices that in one way or another involve the seeking of hidden knowledge that God has not revealed, or superhuman power that God has not given.

The people that once lived in the land of Canaan worshipped many of the A those worshipped in the shrines. They may have had different names, but they were the same. For examples, one of their gods was fish on the bottom and human on top. What spirit is worshipped in the shrines that is half fish and half human? (Mamiwata)

Because the land was filled with idols, it was also filled with the abominable practices that those spirits led the people to do. These practices were so sickening to God that He told the people of Israel to destroy them all and to destroy all their idols.

**Read Leviticus 18:24-25:**

“Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; for by all these the nations are defiled, which I am casting out before you. For the land is defiled; therefore I visit the punishment of its iniquity upon it, and the land vomits out its inhabitants.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Does God want His people to follow the customs of those who worship idols? (No, He says “Do not defile yourselves with any of these things”.)
- What will these things do to us if we practice them? (They will defile us.)
- What does defile mean? (It means to make dirty or to ruin.)
- Is it OK to do some of these things if we also go to church? (No, God warns us not to defile ourselves with any of these things.)
- What did these practices do to the nations that first inhabited the land of Canaan? (Defiled them)
- What did God do to those nations because they defiled themselves with these practices? (Cast them out of the land.)
- These practices defiled the people and also what else? (Even the land)
- Why did God punish the land? (Because it was defiled by the iniquity or terrible sin of its inhabitants.)
- What very descriptive way did God tell about the land getting rid of its inhabitants? (He said the land would vomit out its inhabitants because of their sin)
- What advice does this verse give you about the practices you learned in the shrines? (I should not defile myself with those practices.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Tell your counselor what you have learned about God’s enemy, Satan.
- What part was new or surprising to you?
- In what ways do you see the hand of Satan working in the shrines?
- Tell your counselor one thing you need to change as a result of this lesson.
- How would you like your counselor to pray for you as a result of this lesson?

## Where did deceptive spirits come from?

**Read: John 1:1-3, 14a** 1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.” 14a “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who existed in the very beginning? (The Word)
- The Word was with whom? (The Word was with God)
- Who was the Word? (The Word was God)
- Who made all things? (The Word, who was also God)
- Is there anything at all that the Word did not make? (No, without Him nothing was made that was made)
- The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. This verse makes it clear that the Word was whom? (Jesus, who left His eternal home in heaven and became flesh. That is, He was born in this world as a human being even though He was God from all eternity.)
- If Jesus made all things, did He also make or create the angels? The spirits? (Yes, he made all things including all angels and all spirits.)

**Read Colossians 1:16:** 16 “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- When it says “by Him all things were created,” who is it talking about? (About Jesus)
- Jesus created all things in what two places? (In heaven and on earth)
- In heaven, besides God and besides people, who else is there? (Angels are there)
- So who created the angels? (Jesus did. He created all things in heaven.)
- Jesus created all things visible and invisible. What do these two words mean? (He created all things we can see, that is, things that are physical. He also created all things we cannot see, that is, things that are spiritual. He created all spirits.)
- Angels were given different levels of authority and responsibility—different jobs. How does this verse describe those levels of authority amongst the angels? (Thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers)
- Who created the angels or spirits at every level of authority? (Jesus—all things were created through Him)
- For whom were the angels and spirits created? (For Jesus)
- Since Jesus created the angels and spirits, were they good or bad when He created them? (They were good when He created them.)

**Read Ezekiel 28:12b-17:**

...12b You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty, 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God...14 You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. 15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

**Explain:** We know this passage is talking about a high angel, because it says, “You were the anointed cherub who covers”. Cherubs were very high angels who stood in the presence of God.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Was this high angel flawed in any way when God made him? (No, he was the seal of perfection.)
- Was he lacking in wisdom when God made him? (No, he was full of wisdom when God made him.)
- Was he ugly when God made him? (No, he was perfect in beauty when God made him.)
- This angel was in Eden, the garden of God. Besides Adam and Eve, do you remember any other being that was in Eden? (The snake or serpent that spoke to Eve. If the story is not familiar, read it from Genesis 3:1-6.)
- What seems to have happened in the garden? (The high angel spirit entered into the body of the snake and caused it to speak to Eve.)
- This high angel was created good and beautiful, but what happened? (Iniquity or awful sin was found in him.)

**To find out more about this angel who began good but became bad, Read Isaiah 14:12-15a:**

12“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High. 15a Yet you shall be brought down...”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What happened to this angel? (He fell from heaven.)
- What was his name? (Lucifer, son of the morning.)
- What did he do to the nations? (He weakened the nations.)
- The beginning of this high angel’s sin seems to be something he said in his heart. What wicked thing did he say in his heart? (I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God, I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”
- What phrase is repeated four times? (I will.)
- Angels were created to serve God. Do these words show an attitude of submission to God? (No, they show self will and pride.)
- What did this angel aspire to do? (To be like God, or to be equal with God.)
- Because of this rebellious attitude, what happened to him? (He was brought down.)
- Think about the verses from Ezekiel. What was the iniquity or sin that was found in this angel? (He rebelled against God, wanting to be like God.)

**Read Luke 10:18:** (Jesus speaking) “And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’ ”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What did Jesus say He saw? (He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.)
- We know that the angel who fell was a cherub called Lucifer. What name does Jesus give him here? (Satan)

**Read Revelation 12:3-4a:** “...behold, a great, fiery red dragon...his tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What is Satan called here? (a great fiery dragon)
- What did his tail draw or pull in? (A third of the stars)
- What happened to them? (They were thrown to the earth)
- How many were taken in by Satan? (One third, or one in three)
- If one third were taken in by Satan, how many angels stayed true to God? (Two thirds, or two out of three)

**Read Revelation 12:7-9:** “7And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, 8 but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. 9 So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who was the leader of God’s good angels? (Michael)
- Who were Michael and his angels fighting against? (the serpent called the devil or Satan)
- Who was cast out of heaven? (the dragon called the serpent or the devil or Satan and his angels)
- What are all the names we have learned for Satan? (The anointed cherub who fell, Lucifer, Satan, the devil, the dragon, the serpent)
- Was he alone in his rebellion against God? (No, a third of the angels followed him.)
- What was their job? (To deceive the whole world. This is why we call them lying or deceptive spirits.)

**Read John 8:44:** (Jesus speaking to the Jews who were trying to kill Him) “You are of your father the devil...He ...does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Is there any truth in Satan? (No he is a liar.)
- Who is the father of lies? (Satan)
- When Satan or one of his angelic spirits speaks, would we expect them to tell the truth? (No). Can we trust what they say? (No, they are lying spirits.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Do you think you can trust the spirits who speak in the shrines? Why or why not?
- What if a shrine spirit promised something good. Could you trust it then?
- What if it promised something you really wanted? Maybe to be rich or to go to the U.S.? Or to be healed and never to be sick again? (It is a lying spirit. It has to say good things while giving us bad things.)
- Have you sought God's forgiveness for listening to the lying spirits? If you are not sure, you can do so now.
- Jesus said, "I am the truth." Will you ask Him to be your Saviour? If you have not yet done so, are you ready to put your trust in Him? If not, what holds you back?
- If you have received Jesus and repented of listening to lying spirits, you are ready for deliverance. Tell those lying spirits to leave you now in the name of Jesus. If they try to return to harass you, keep on telling them to leave. If you need help, ask your counselor to pray with you and for you.

## What do those deceptive spirits do now?

**Read Revelation 9:20:** “they...did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- When people worship idols, what are they really worshipping? (Demons, or evil spirits)
- Would you like to worship demons? (No.)
- Do you think most people who worship idols realize that they are really worshipping demons? (No.)
- Why not? (Those are lying spirits. They deceive people.)
- What is one of the things deceptive spirits are doing now? (Leading people into idolatry, seeking worship themselves, seeking to pull worship away from God.)

**Read I Timothy 4:1:** “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- In the Bible the Spirit is capitalized. Why did they do that? (To show that it is not talking about just any spirit but about the Holy Spirit of God.) It is the Holy Spirit of God who is telling us that some will depart from the faith.
- What will happen in the latter times? (Some will depart from the faith.)
- Who will they listen to instead of God? (They will give heed to deceiving spirits.)
- When they give heed to deceiving spirits, will they hear the truth or will they hear lies? (Deceiving spirits will lie to them.)
- Doctrines are teachings about God. Whose doctrines will they listen to? (They will give heed to doctrines of demons.)
- Will demons tell the truth about God? (No. Demons are liars and deceivers.)
- Where does false teaching come from? (From deceptive spirits)

**Read Revelation 16:14:** “For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and to the whole world...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What can spirits of demons sometimes do? (Perform signs)
- What kinds of signs do you think these are? (Probably amazing things like miracles)
- Who are they going out to? (Kings of the earth and the whole world)
- Besides seeking worship and telling lies and creating false doctrine, what else are demon spirits doing right now? (Performing signs or miracles)
- Why do you think they would do that? (To cause people to follow them)

**Read Matthew 4:1 3a:** “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil... Now when the tempter came to Him...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Who led Jesus into the wilderness? (The Spirit or the Holy Spirit of God)
- Why did he go there? (To be tempted by the devil)
- What is another thing the devil is doing right now? (Tempting people)
- What does it mean to tempt someone? (To put it into their mind to do wrong or to try to get them to do wrong)
- Jesus was tempted, but did he ever do wrong? (No, He never did wrong. See the last part of Hebrews 4:15. “He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”)
- What is Satan called here? (The tempter)

**Read Revelation 12:10b:** “for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What is Satan called in this verse? (The accuser of our brethren)
- To whom did Satan accuse the brethren? (to God)
- How often did he accuse them? (day and night, that is, constantly)
- What kind of attitude does this show Satan has toward God’s people? (An attitude of wanting to hurt or destroy them.)
- What is another thing Satan is doing right now? (Accusing God’s people before God)

**Read I John 2:1:** “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- If we sin, who is our advocate or lawyer who will defend us before God? (Jesus Christ)
- If we have really sinned, what defense can he make? (He shed His blood to pay the penalty for our sin.)
- Do believers need to fear Satan’s accusations? (No, because Jesus, God’s own Son, is our Advocate.)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- How has Satan been active in my life? What has he been up to?
- How has he tempted me to worship idols?
- What teachings has he confused me about?
- What sins does he make look especially tempting to me?
- Do I have real sin in my life that he could use to accuse me to God?
- What will I do to recognize his work in my life in the future, so that I might not fall into his traps?

## Any spirit that seeks worship is not a spirit of God.

Since there are many spirits in the world, how can we know which spirits are of God and which are of the enemy? One of the principles we need to understand is that any spirit who seeks or accepts worship is not a spirit of God. This is because only God is worthy of worship, and a primary purpose of God's good angels is to bring Him glory and direct worship to Him. On the other hand, the primary purpose of Satan was to draw worship away from God and to himself.

**Read Matthew 4:8-10:** 8“Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, ‘All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.’ 10 Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you, Satan!’ For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’

### Ask: According to these verses:

- What was one of the temptations Satan presented to Jesus? (The devil would give Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory if Jesus would only fall down and worship him.)
- Did Jesus fall to this temptation? No, He told Satan to get out of there.
- What was the reason for Jesus' refusal to worship Satan? (The Scripture said we should worship the Lord our God and we should serve only Him.)

**Read Revelation 22:8-9:** “ 8 Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. 9 Then he said to me, ‘See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.’ ”

### Ask: According to these verses:

- Who fell down to worship before the angel? (John, the one who was writing, was admitting what happened.)
- Why did he fall down to worship before the angel? (Because the angel had shown him such wonderful things)
- Did the angel accept his worship? (No, the angel said ‘See that you do not do that.’)
- Why did the angel refuse to accept his worship? (Because he was only a fellow servant of God, and only God is worthy of our worship.)
- What did the angel tell John to do? (Worship God)
- What will a true angel of God do if we true to worship it? (It will refuse our worship and direct our worship to God alone.)

**Read Hebrews 1: 6:** “But when He (God the Father) brings the firstborn (Jesus) into the world, He says, “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What did God the Father tell all His angels to do when He sent His Son Jesus into the world as a baby? (He told all the angels of God to worship Him.)

- What does this show about Jesus? (It shows He is really God, because only God can receive worship.)
- What does it show about the good angels of God? (They are to give worship to God, not to take worship to themselves.)

**Read Deuteronomy 32:17a:** “They sacrificed to demons, not to God”

- These people were making sacrifices, so why was God not happy with them? (They were offering sacrifices to demons, but they should have been offering sacrifices to God.)
- When a sacrifice is offered to an idol or to another spirit like what are called the “lesser gods,” who is it really offered to? (To demons, not to God)
- Any spirit other than the Lord God who accepts sacrifice, what is it? (A demon)

**What do I need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- When have I worshiped spirits that were not of God?
- Have I asked God’s forgiveness for what I have done in the past?
- Have I told those spirits to leave me?
- Have I got rid of every object that somehow tied me to those spirits?
- Am I ready to stop doing that and to give all my worship and love to God from now on?
- Will I ask His help to be faithful in this decision, and thank Him for my deliverance?
- How might I be tempted to return to those spirits in the future?
- How can I prepare myself to be faithful to God when that temptation comes?
- Who might try to get me to worship other spirits again?
- What will I tell them when they try to get me to do that?

## God wants all our worship and love

### Introduction to the lesson:

Some people say that since God made all the spirits, He must want us to call on them. He must have made them for that purpose. They say that God Himself is too far away and does not want to be bothered with our prayers. They say He does not really mind sharing our worship with the lesser spirits that He made. Have you heard this kind of thinking?

What does the Bible say about this?

**Read Exodus 20:1-3:** And God spoke all these words, saying: “I am the Lord your God, ... You shall have no other gods before Me.”

### Ask: According to these verses:

- Who was speaking in these verses? (The Lord God)
- Did God want them to also have other gods besides Him? (No, they were to have no other gods)
- Who was to be their only God? (the Lord God)
- Do these verses sound like God is willing for us to share our worship with other gods in addition to Him? (No, He wants to be our only God.)

**Read Deuteronomy 4:35:** “To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What did God show to His people? (That He Himself was God)
- Besides Him, how many others are God? (None)
- So although people may call other spirits “gods” or “lesser gods,” are they really God? (No, only the Lord God is a real god.)
- What then are the other spirits? (Just spirits that God made, not gods)
- Why does God want us to worship Him? (He is the only true God)

**Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5:** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

### Ask: According to these verses:

- How many Gods are there? (One.)
- Who is He? (the Lord God)
- What does He want from us? (All our love. He wants us to love Him with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our strength.)
- Is God willing to share our love with other gods or with idols? (No, He is the only true God, so He wants all our love.)
- Have you ever thought of LOVING God before? This is what He wants from you.

**Read John 4:23:** (Jesus speaking) “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What did Jesus say the Father was seeking? (Worshipers to worship Him in spirit and in truth)
- Since God is seeking worshipers, does this imply that He wants our worship? (Yes, it does. He seeks our worship because He wants our worship—all of it.)

**Think about it:**

God says He wants all our love. Is He worthy of our love? What do you think?

Why is He worthy of our love? (They may think of ideas like He made us, He gives us air to breathe, He gives us the earth and rain so we can have food, He gives us life, etc.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Ask God’s forgiveness for not loving Him as you should.
- Tell God you want to love Him & ask His help to love Him as He wants.
- Despite the hardships of your life, think about all the good things God has done for you. Thank Him every day for every good thing to can think of.

## God wants us to seek Him because He wants to help us

**Read Matthew 7:9-11:** “Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Do parents want good gifts or bad gifts for their children? (Good gifts)
- Jesus asked, if a son asks for bread, will his father give him a stone. Will he? (No)
- Why not? (The father loves his son and wants good for him)
- If he asks for a fish, will the father give him a snake? (No)
- Why not? (The snake might hurt him, but the fish would help him because he could eat it. The father gives good gifts that help and do not harm his children.)
- Jesus said that we as human parents are evil, that is, we are sinners. Yet we still know how to give good gifts to our children. What does this say about God? (HOW MUCH MORE will our Father in heaven give good things to those to ask Him for help)
- According to Jesus, is there any truth to the idea that God is too busy or too far away to help His people? (No, he will help us far more than our earthly parents.)
- According to these verses, when we need help, what should we do? (Ask God for help because He wants to help us.)

**Read Isaiah 8:19a,b:** “And when they say to you, ‘Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter’, should not a people seek their God?”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Who should we seek? (A people should seek their God)
- Who is your God?
- Who will you seek?

**Read Deuteronomy 4:29:** “...you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him, if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- If we seek God, will we find Him? (Yes, if we seek Him with all our heart and soul)
- Is God hiding from us? (No, we will find Him if we truly seek Him)
- Is God refusing to help us? (No, He will help us if we truly seek Him)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What are some of the most important ways you need God’s help?
- Will you seek His help in these things?
- Will you believe that what He gives you is the best—better than anything you could have gotten from the enemy?

## God has given believers in Jesus power over demonic spirits

**Read Matthew 17:18:** “And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- How did Jesus cure the boy who had a demon? (Jesus rebuked the demon)
- What happened then? (The demon came out of him and the boy was cured.)
- How do we know that Jesus had power or authority over demonic spirits? (He demonstrated or showed that power by casting out demons.)

**Read Luke 9:1:** “Then He (Jesus) called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- To whom did Jesus give His power and authority over demons? (To His disciples)
- How many demons did the disciples have authority over? (Over all demons)

**Read Luke 10:17-19** 17“Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Thy name.’ 18 And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- In the verse we just read, Jesus sent out His 12 disciples and gave them authority over demons. Later He sent out a bigger group of disciples—He sent out 70. When they returned to report to Jesus, what were they especially happy about? (Even the demons were subject to them in Jesus’ name.)
- How does Jesus remind the disciples that Satan’s kingdom cannot stand? (He says He saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.)
- They have already discovered that they have authority over demons. How does Jesus reaffirm this to them? (He tells them they have authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and all the power of the enemy.)
- Who was the serpent? (Satan)
- What did they have authority over? (All the power of the enemy)
- What can hurt them of the enemy’s power? (Nothing)
- Does this mean we should try to pick up scorpions or poisonous snakes? (No)
- What does it mean, then? (As we go in Jesus’ name, we can count on His power and authority to protect us from all the enemy’s power.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What evil spirits have been bothering you?
- What powers of the enemy have you been fearing?
- Do you know that you have welcomed Jesus so that you have His power in you?  
(If not, what is to stop you from welcoming Him right now?)
- Have you been using your authority as a believer to destroy the work of the enemy in your own life?
- In the lives of your children?
- How would you like your counselor to pray with you today about these issues?

## God does not want us to be involved in worshipping idols

### Read Deuteronomy 12:29-32

**29** “When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land, **30** take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them, and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? I also will do likewise,’ **31** You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way, for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods, for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods. Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

**Explain:** God wrote this to His people when they were about to go into the land God had promised to give them. God had told them to destroy the wicked people who were living there and to take their land.

### Now go back and read it phrase by phrase:

“When the Lord your God cuts off from before you the nations which you go to dispossess, and you displace them and dwell in their land,

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What was God going to do to the nations that worshipped idols? (Cut them off from their land)
- What were God’s people going to do? (Displace the idol worshippers and live in their land)

**Read again:** **30** take heed to yourself that you are not ensnared to follow them , after they are destroyed from before you

### Ask: According to this verse:

- What did God warn His people to be careful about? (Not to get ensnared by the idols.)
- If God was concerned to warn them not to get ensnared, doesn’t this imply that He thought they might easily get ensnared? (Yes, that’s why He warned them.)
- What does it mean to get ensnared? (A snare is a trap like a trap to catch an animal. The animal walks along unsuspectingly and gets trapped in it. Ensnared, then, means to get trapped.)
- How could God’s people get ensnared? (By following the practices of the idol worshippers)

**Read again:** “and that you do not inquire after their gods, saying, ‘How did these nations serve their gods? ? I also will do likewise,’”

### Ask: According to this verse:

- Does the Lord want His people to pray to other gods or seek the help of other gods? (No, God warned them not to do that. He said DO NOT inquire after their gods.)

- Does the Lord want His people to follow the practices of the idol worshippers? (No. God says we should NOT ask how those nations served their gods. God didn't like the way they worshipped. He hated it, so He doesn't want His people to follow it.)
- When you are tempted to ask something of the shrines, what three words from this verse do you need to remember?: (DO NOT INQUIRE)

**Read again: 31** “You shall not worship the Lord your God in that way”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Does God want His people to worship Him by consulting idols? (No. He says we should not worship Him in that way)
- Isn't it OK to worship idols if we say we are worshipping God through them? (No, God tells us not to worship Him in that way.)

**Read again:** “for every abomination to the Lord which He hates they have done to their gods, for they burn even their sons and daughters in the fire to their gods”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- How did God feel about the way they worshipped their gods? (He said it was abomination, or an awful, sickening thing, and He hated it.)
- What one practice did the Lord give as an example of something He especially hated? (Burning sons and daughters in the fire)
- What shrine practices do you know of that are destructive to children?

**Read again:** Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- Where does God want us to get our ideas about how to worship? (He wants us to observe what He commands us.)
- How much of what God tells us should we obey? (All of it)
- What should we avoid doing to God's commands? (Adding to them or taking away from them.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- What idols have you been involved in worshipping?
- Have you thoroughly repented from this, or is there something you still need to confess to God?
- Do you still have any idols hidden away? If so, will you let your counselor destroy them, if they belong to you?
- Have you commanded the spirits of those idols to go out of you and to leave you alone in the name of Jesus?
- After you stop worshipping idols, have you used every opportunity to worship the true and living God?

## God does not want us to be involved in consulting spirits for fortune telling or in divination

**Read Deuteronomy 18:9, 12, and 14:** “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations....For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you...For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

**Read again:** 9 “When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- When was this verse given to God’s people? (Before they came into the land God had promised them, because it says “when you come into the land.” So it’s obvious they had not yet come in.)
- What does God warn them not to do? (They should not follow the abominations of those nations, that is, the nations who lived there before them.)
- What word (or maybe it’s a phrase in Ewe) shows how God felt about the practices of those nations? (He calls it abomination. That’s a very strong word that means their practices were horrible, sickening, disgusting—like vomit.)

**Read again:** ...12”.For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- The verse we just read said the practices of those people were abomination to the Lord. This verse says that what else is abomination to Him? (All who do these things. Practicing idol worship makes the people themselves abominable before God.)
- Some traditional leaders defend the practice of worshipping idols. But according to this verse, who decides whether it is right or wrong? (the Lord. These practices are abomination to the Lord, regardless of what anybody else says or thinks)
- What is the reason God was going to drive out the idol-worshipping people from that land? (Because of these abominations. That is, because of their idol worship.)

**Read again:** 14 “ For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you.”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- In this verse, God gives an example of one of the abominable practices associated with their idol worship. What was that practice? (Listening to soothsayers and diviners)
- Soothsayers are fortune tellers or those who consult spirits other than God to try to tell what will happen in the future or to try to give someone advice about what to do. Is there anyone in our society who tries to do something like that? Who?

- What was God going to do to those nations who listened to soothsayers? (Take their land away from them and give it to God's people)
- Why do you think God does not want His people to listen to soothsayers? (God wants us to seek His help. He is honored to help His people. Also, remember that other spirits seek only to steal, to kill and to destroy. When we seek their help, we open up ourselves to their destructive powers.)
- What are diviners? (Those who try to get secret knowledge by throwing down bones or shells or nuts and asking the spirits to give an answer by the way the things fall on the ground. This process is called divination.)
- Did God approve of diviners or divination? (No, that practice was one of the reasons He was taking the idol worshippers from their land.)
- Are there diviners in this society? Who are they?
- Have you seen divining tables in some of the shrines or villages? (Usually they are round, made of cement with a design of shells embedded in them.)
- Both soothsayers and diviners have one thing in common. Who are they both calling on for help rather than God? (On other spirits)
- Does God want His people to follow these practices or to seek help in a different manner? (God has not appointed these practices for us. We have God to help us, and He is the greatest power there is. Besides that, He wants to help us.)
- What are some ways people get involved in divination? (Doing it, seeking a priest to do it for them, encouraging a family member to do it)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- For what purposes have you sought fortune tellers or diviners?
- Do you now see this as sin? Have you sought God's forgiveness and cleansing?
- Have you rebuked any spirits that might have come to you through divination or through seeking information from the shrines or the fortunetellers?
- Is anything still bothering you related to these practices? What?
- What prayer help do you need from your counselor?

## God wants our whole hearts

**Read Deuteronomy 29:16-18:** “For you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold, so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood”

**Read again:** “For you know that we dwelt in the land of Egypt and that we came through the nations which you passed by, and you saw their abominations and their idols which were among them—wood and stone and silver and gold”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- God’s people had been slaves in Egypt and God had delivered them. Then they traveled through many idol-worshipping nations on their way to the land God was giving them. What did they see in Egypt and in these other nations? (Their abominations and their idols. The abominations were the practices they used in worshipping the idols.
- What were the idols of those nations made of? (Wood and stone and silver and gold)

**Read again:** “so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations”/

- God warned them not to let what happen? (Not to let their heart turn away from the Lord to go and serve those idol gods)
- Can we serve God and worship idols at the same time? (No. When we worship idols it shows that our hearts have turned away from God.)

**Read again:** and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood”

- If their heart turned away from God to serve idols, what would that lead to? (Bitterness, not happiness, not joy)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- In what ways have you failed to give God your whole heart?
- Have you sought His forgiveness and cleansing?
- What parts of your life do you still need to give over to God?
- How can your counselor pray for you today?

## God does not want us to be involved in astrology

If in your heart you want to worship and serve God, there may be many bad practices that you learned in the shrine that need to be unlearned. Astrology is one of those specific practices that God hates and forbids. They are not good for God's people, and they do not honor God. You may find many that you have been involved with. As you learn what God says about it, ask His forgiveness and decide to stay away from that wicked thing. Seek God instead, because His purpose for you is always good and He is always willing to help you.

### **One of those practices that God hates and forbids is Astrology.**

Astrology is worshipping and seeking help from things in the sky, like the sun, moon, stars, planets, comets, thunder, lightning, or anything we see or hear in the sky. Astrology includes ordering our lives or making decisions according to the positions of the stars. Some astrologers give monthly reports telling people what to do that month based on the position of the stars in the sky. These astrologers are called monthly prognosticators.

**Read Isaiah 47:13:** “You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you.”

### **Ask: According to this verse:**

- God said His people were weary or tired. Why were they so weary? (Because they had been seeking help from so many other counselors but not from the Lord)
- They sought a multitude of counsels. What does that mean? (Counsel from many sources, but not from the right source, that is from many spirits but not from God)
- What were three kinds of so-called helpers they were seeking? (Astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators)
- Were these getting help from God or from the stars? (Not from God but from the stars)
- Does God seem to be pleased with this? (No. He says He is going to punish them. All their astrologers will not be able to save them or help them.)
- Stars are things God made. Should we worship the thing God made or should we worship the God who made them? (We should worship the God who made them.)

Have you heard of anyone consulting the sun, moon or stars in this culture? Who? Have you heard of anyone worshipping the sun, moon or stars? Who?

### **What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- Have you yourself ever worshipped or called on the sun, moon, stars, or the spirit called the thunder god for help? If not, God wants you to continue to stay away from that. He wants you to worship Him alone.
- If you have been involved in any way, you may have permitted deceiving spirits to come into your life to disturb you. You can refuse them now and tell them to go away in Jesus' name. You can turn away from worshipping these things God made. You can begin to worship and love and serve the Creator, our great God and Savior.
- What do you need to do right now?

## God does not want us to be involved in burning incense to idols or in worshipping idols

**Read: Jeremiah 1:16:** “I will utter my judgments against them concerning all their wickedness, because they have forsaken Me, burned incense to other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What was God going to utter against them? (His judgments)
- If God’s judgment is against us, are we getting a reward or a punishment? (A punishment if it is against us)
- What is God judging? (all their wickedness)
- Why is He angry with them? (They had forsaken God)
- What does it mean to forsake someone? (To turn away from him, to leave him)
- What two things did they do that showed God that they had forsaken Him? (They burned incense to other gods, and they worshipped idols that they had made themselves.)
- Does God approve of making images ourselves and then worshipping them? (No, it will bring God’s judgment)
- Does God approve of burning incense to idols? (No, it will bring His judgment)

**Read: Jeremiah 11:12-14: 12**“Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble. 13 For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah, and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to that shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal. 14 So do not pray for this people, or lift up a prayer for them, for I will not hear them in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.”

**Explain:** This is written in a time when God is about to bring judgment on the people of Israel because of their idol worship. He has warned them and they have not repented so now He has decided to bring judgment on them. When this trouble comes, they will first call on their idols gods. The idols will not be able to help them, so later they will call on God, but since they didn’t call on Him first, He will refuse to hear them.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- When trouble comes, who would the people call on first? (The gods to whom they offer incense, that is, the idols)
- How much help will they get from the idols? (None. They will not save them at all in the day of trouble.)
- How many different gods were they worshipping? (Many. Every city seemed to have its own god.)

- In your culture, do different cities, towns, villages, clans and tribes have their own gods? What are the gods of the place where you live?
- How many streets of Jerusalem were having idols? (All of them. They have filled the place with idols.)
- What does God call their god Baal? (That shameful thing)
- How were they worshipping Baal? (Building altars and burning incense to him)
- What part of God's judgment was even worse than the trouble that was coming? (God would no longer help them. Since they wanted help from idols, let the idols help them. But of course the idols can't help them, so there is no help left.)
- What could happen to us if we refused God's warnings and keep on worshipping idols? (God could give up on us and refuse to help us.)

### What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?

- What about you? Have you worshipped idols that you knew were made by human hands? Have you offered incense to idols or sang or bowed as incense was offered?
- If you have, you probably did not know that you were inviting evil spirits to attach themselves to your life. You might not even have realized that you were offending God.
- But now you know. Will you stop any of these practices you are still involved in?
- Will you tell God you are sorry and ask His forgiveness?
- Will you give all your love and worship to the One who made you? If you will, then:
  1. **Name what you have done and ask God to forgive you.**
  2. **Tell any spirits from that practice to leave you in Jesus' name.**
  3. **Ask a counselor to pray for you and agree with their prayer.**
  4. **Stop worshipping idols. Start loving and worshipping the One True and Living God.**
  5. **If the evil spirits come back, keep on refusing them and telling them to leave in Jesus' name.**

**Note to the counselor:** Remind the student of the illustration of peeling off layers of the onion. If they have been involved in idol worship, there are probably many layers of evil spirits attached to their life. Each layer is attached to a particular practice that gave permission for those spirits to operate in the person's life. Every time they repent of an evil practice, they can tell the spirits associated with that practice to leave. They will begin to go. It is like peeling the layers of an onion off, layer by layer. It may take time, because the practices of idolatry may have given many permissions for demons to operate, but encourage the student to keep learning, keep repenting and keep peeling. Just as the onion gets smaller as you peel off each layer, so the influence of evil spirits gets less each time they repent and pray for deliverance. One day they will find that you are completely free by the power of Jesus Christ!

## God does not want us to be involved in magic or in using charms (amulets or talismans)

Magic is doing anything that cannot be done in the natural realm, not by the power of God, but by the power of Satan and his demons. (When God does the supernatural, we call it a miracle.) Remember what you know about the nature and the intent of demons. They are deceptive spirits who have great power (although far less than God's power). They can do supernatural things, but their intent is never to help us, but always to hurt and destroy.

**Read Ezekiel 13:18, 20:** “18...Thus says the Lord God, woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves...20 Therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- What were the women sewing on their sleeves? (Magic charms)
- What was the purpose of these magic charms? (To hunt souls like birds)
- What was God's response to these women? (Woe to them)
- If someone says “woe” to you, is this a sign of approval, or of judgment? (Of judgment)
- What did God say He would do to those magic charms? (Tear them from their arms.)

**Read Acts 19:18-19:** “18And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds, 19 Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.”

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- This verse tells us about a time when many people were believing in Jesus as their Savior. What did many of those who had believed do? (Confessed and told their deeds)
- Some of them had practiced magic before they believed in Jesus. What did they do? (Brought all their magic books together and burned them while everyone watched.)
- Were these just cheap, valueless books? (No, they were very valuable. They were worth 50,000 pieces of silver.)

**Explain:** Magic charms are sometimes used to do harm to others and sometimes used with the intention of protecting someone. But even when the charm is meant to protect someone, it is a trap. Remember that the spirits giving power to the charm are deceiving spirits who mean to harm us. They may tell you that a charm is for protection, when in reality it can be that very thing that draws demonic powers to you.

**Add a verse about God protecting His people.**

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

## God does not want us to be involved in casting spells or in cursing someone

**Read Deuteronomy 18:10a-11:** “10a...There shall not be found among you anyone who...11 ...conjures spells.”

**Explain:** Casting spells is the sending forth of demonic powers to influence the thinking, actions, affections or decisions of someone through magic or through invocation of those spirits.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Is it OK for God’s people to be involved in conjuring spells? (No, God says there should not be a person among us who does such a thing.)
- How have you seen spells conjured in the shrines?
- For what purposes?

**Read Ezekiel 13:18, 21:** “18...Thus says the Lord God, woe to the women who make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of my people, and keep yourselves alive? ... 21 I will also tear off your veils and deliver my people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

**Ask: According to these verses:**

- Who is God warning in these verse? (The women who make veils to hunt souls)
- What was the purpose of the veils? (To hunt souls)
- What was God going to do? (Tear off the veils and deliver His people.)
- Who was stronger—the spirit behind the veil, or the Lord? (The Lord God)

**Read: Leviticus 20:9:** “For everyone who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death...”

**Ask: According to this verse:**

- What shows that cursing one’s parents was a very, very serious matter? (In Old Testament times, God said they should get the death penalty.)
- How does God feel about cursing one’s parents? (He takes it very seriously. He hates it.)

**What do you need to do as a result of this lesson?**

- How have you yourself been involved in cursing anyone or putting a spell on them, even for something that seemed good—like causing someone to love you?
- Have you repented specifically of your involvement in that thing?
- Will you thank God for forgiving and cleansing you from this sin?
- Have you felt a release from any demonic powers associated with this practice?
- How can your counselor pray for you in this matter?

## God does not want us to be involved in calling on the spirits to speak, or in getting “possessed”

Conjuring of spirits by a spirit medium (Lev. 19:31, Deut. 18:11)

Spiritism (Lev. 19:31, Deut. 18:11)

Trances or altered states of consciousness (peep and mutter) (Isaiah 8:19)

## God does not want us to be involved in cutting & tattooing

Cutting & tattooing (Lev. 19:28, Deut. 14:1-2)

## God does not want us to be involved in divination

Divination (Lev. 19:26, Deut. 18:14, Ezekiel 13:6)

## God does not want us to drink blood in worship

Eating blood (Lev. 19:26)

## God does not want us to use enchantment

Enchantments & incantations (Isa. 47:9-10,13)

## God does not want us to seek or use false signs that don't come from God

False dreams (Deut. 13:1-3)

False miracles & signs (Deut. 13:1-3)

False prophecy (Deut. 13:1-3, 18:20, Ezekiel 13:2-3,17)

False visions (Ezekiel 13:2-8)

## God does not want us to be involved in idolatry

Idolatry (Lev. 19:4, 26:1, Deut. 5:6-10, 27:15 29:26-27, 30:17-18, 31:18, Jer. 1:16, 2:5, 10&11, 26-28 10:2-5, Ezekiel 14:2-9)

## God does not want us to be involved in interpretation of omens

Interpretation of omens (Deut. 18:10)

## God does not want us to be involved in pouring libation to false gods

Libation (pour out drink offerings to queen of heaven) Jer. 44:17

## God does not want us to be involved in sacrificing children

Making children pass through fire (Lev. 18:21, Deut 12:31, 18:10)

Offering children as sacrifices (Lev. 20:2, Ezekiel 16:36)

## God does not want us to be involved in calling on the dead

Necromancy, calling up the dead (Deut. 18:11, Isa. 8:19)

## God does not want us to be involved in prostitution

Prostitution & prostituting daughters (Lev. 19:29, 20:5-6, Jer. 2:20)

## God does not want us to be involved in having shrines & high places

Shrines & high places (Ezekiel 16:30-31)

## God does not want us to be involved in sorcery or witchcraft

Sorcery (Deut. 18:10, Isa. 47:9-10, 13))

Witchcraft (1 Sam. 15:23)

## God does not want us to be involved in making offerings to the gods

Offering cakes as offerings to gods (Isa. 44:19)

## God does not want us to be involved in worshipping specific male & female gods & goddesses

Worshipping the Queen of Heaven (Jer., 44:3-5,8,17)

God wants us to avoid the injustice that is often associated with idolatry. He wants us to be just and to do justice, even as He is just.

Injustice (Jer. 7:9)

God wants us to avoid the ruin or perversion of our God-given sexuality that is often associated with idolatry.

Sexual deviancy & worship—Adultery (Lev. 18:20, 20:10) bestiality (Lev. 18:23, 20:15-16, Deut. 27:21), homosexuality (Lev. 18:22), incest (Lev. 18:1-17, 20:11-14 & 17), Deut. 27:20,22-23), prostitution

**God wants us to avoid every form of slavery, which is often associated with idolatry.**

Slavery

**God wants us to avoid the poverty & low level of development that is often associated with idolatry.**

Psalm 106:41,42 in context, Psalm 16:4

**God wants to give us the solution to our problems—  
Seek God with our Whole Hearts**

Matthew 6:24-33

**The final conclusion of the matter is: We need to cling to God--  
no matter what!**

Bible doctrine—God is eternal in three persons

Bible doctrine—Who is Jesus?

Bible doctrine—What was our problem with God?

Bible doctrine—Why did Jesus die for us?

Bible doctrine—How do we know God accepted Jesus' sacrifice?

Bible doctrine—How & why can we now come to God?

Bible doctrine—How can we be saved & know it for sure?

Bible doctrine—What happens when we become believers

Bible doctrine—What happens when a Christian sins?

Bible doctrine—Who is going to win in the end?

## Tips on Talking to Priests and Priestesses

*Advice to the evangelist: Don't begin your talk by criticizing them and certainly not by ridiculing them. First, try to establish some common ground, something you can both agree on. The Apostle Paul did this when we confronted the idolators of the city of Athens (Acts 17). He even quoted one of their pagan poets.*

*It is easy to establish common ground with African traditionalists because they all recognize the existence of one great true and living God who made all things, even making the spirits. Agree on this point and congratulate the priest for acknowledging the existence of God. This gets you started on a positive note and provides a strong foundation on which you can build. THEN go on to talk about differences.*

### **The uniqueness of the sacrifice of Jesus**

Approach the topic—Ask the priest or priestess these questions:

You've offered many sacrifices to the gods. Jesus also offered a sacrifice, but His was very different. Has anyone ever talked to you about how His sacrifice was different? Have you ever thought about how His sacrifice was different?

Read Matt. 27:45 You've offered many sacrifices. Has it ever happened that darkness came over the land at noon just at the very moment of the sacrifice?

Read Matt. 27:50& John 19:30 Jesus was not forcibly killed. He yielded up his spirit. When He was ready to die, he said, "It is

finished.” Then He gave His life to God. Have you ever seen your sacrificial victim yield up its life?

Read Matt. 27:51 In Jerusalem there was a temple built to honor the one true and living God, the Creator of everything. Like in your shrines, there was a sacred place where only the high priest was allowed to enter. Over the door of that place was a very heavy veil that reached up so high no one could reach the top of it without a ladder. At the very moment Jesus died, that veil tore in two from top (where no one could reach) to bottom. The veil in your shrine is not nearly as heavy nor as tall. Yet when you offered your sacrifices, have you ever seen, at the very moment of the sacrifice, the veil of your shrine tear in two?

Read Matt. 27:51 As you offered your sacrifices, have you ever had the ground shake?

Read Matt. 28:1-6 Have any of your sacrifices ever risen from the dead?

God did not send these signs when you offered sacrifices of animals or wine or whatever. Yet He showed SO MANY signs when Jesus died on the cross. What do you think God was trying to show us? (He was trying to show us that Jesus was giving the perfect, complete sacrifice and that He was accepting it as payment for our sins.)

Read Hebrews 7:27, 9:25-26 Christ died once for all.

Let’s think about the practice of replacement. The trokosi are supposed to atone for a certain sin. Yet in most of the shrines, if

the girl dies or escapes, another girl must be given in her place. If the life of the trokosi girl serving the gods could atone for a sin, when she died, wouldn't the gods say the sin had been atoned for? When they require another girl, and yet another, and yet another, doesn't this show that the sin has not been atoned for, despite the suffering of generation after generation?

Yet Jesus died once and that was sufficient because he **TRULY AND COMPLETELY ATONED FOR ALL OUR SIN.**