

## Church on the Farm

### Session 4: Exposing Idols – Tom Shaw

We looked at the hugely important story of Israel's exodus out of slavery through the following verses: Exodus 1:8-16, Exodus 12:21-23, Exodus 12:29-36. We then applied this to the Christian life as a greater type of 'freedom from slavery' that the exodus story pointed to. We then examined the different ways in which we can be led back into slavery by allowing idols ('powerless Pharaohs') to have influence over us. Four key examples were looked at (see table below). The solution then to this was both to 'stand firm' (Gal ch 5 v1) but also to look to Christ as our 'example and our enabler' who overcame every temptation to idolatry and now beckons us to follow Him in doing likewise.

Core Idol	What we Crave	Price Willing to Pay	Biggest Fear	How others around you feel	Problem Emotion
1. Comfort	Lack of stress, no responsibility, avoid suffering	Reduced productivity	Stress, demands	Hurt	Boredom
2. Control	Self-discipline, certainty, standards	Loneliness	Uncertainty	Condemned	Worry
3. Power	Success, winning, influence	Burdened, responsibility	Humiliation	Used	Anger
4. Approval	Affirmation, love, relationship	Less independence	Rejection, approval addict	Smothered	Cowardice

Use some or all of the following questions to aid discussion:

1. What examples have you seen in your own life of the freedom that you now have as Christian, you didn't have as a Christian?
2. Which of the 4 core idols do you think may be more significant an issue in your life? Don't worry if you felt that none of them were for you! Praise God if that's you!
3. Which examples in Christ's life most inspire you to overcome that potential idol? Spend some searching the Scriptures looking for examples and then pray for one another in light of question 2.