Altars of Falsity and Truth (Ages 11-14)



The Lord directed Gideon to tear down his father's altar to Baal and cut down the wooden image of Baal next to it. Then Gideon was to build a new altar to the Lord, cut up the idol and use the wood to sacrifice a bull. Worshiping at the altar of Baal represents acting from false principles. The first step to building a life on true ideas is to tear down false ideas since falsity cannot be turned into truth.

Wood corresponds to good—to our loves. Loves may be purified. A love for evil may be purified to become a love of what is good. In the story of Gideon this is pictured by the wooden image of Baal being burned on the Lord's altar.

This activity looks at "false gods", the "one true God", and our ability to turn from loving what is false to loving what is true. Falsity is pictured by the altar of the Baal, and truth is pictured by the altar of the Lord.

1. The children of Israel worshiped false Baals, which represent the loves of self and worldly things.
2. We are going to make two "altars". One altar will picture the false ideas of the Baals. The second altar will picture true ideas from the Lord.
3. Give students one piece of *Stone Altar Paper* (p. 2) and a copy of the *False god, True God Ideas* (p. 3). Using scissors, cut the *Stone Altar Paper* in half.
4. Make one half into an "altar of Baal" by writing false ideas on it, and the other half into an "altar of the Lord" by writing true ideas on it. For help thinking about what to write use the *False god, True God Ideas*.
5. When you have finished, fold the tops of each paper altar down and crease firmly. (See picture above.)
6. Staple or tape the paper into a column.
7. Put the altars next to each other on a hard surface. Like Gideon, we face a choice as to which altar we will serve each day. Make a fist and punch the altar of Baal to destroy it, as Gideon did.
8. We need to work to destroy false ideas in our minds and turn to the Lord.

Materials Needed

copies of *Stone Altar Paper* p. 2 and *False god, True God Ideas* p. 3 for each student, pens or pencils, stapler or tape, scissors

New Church Concept Other Gods

Thou shalt not worship other gods, requires people not to love themselves and the world; for people who love themselves and the world above all things worship other gods; for what any one loves above all things is his God. See *Apocalypse Explained* 935

New Church Concept Intellect & Love

"The intellect does not become spiritual and celestial, but the love does, and when the love does, it makes the intellect, its partner, spiritual and celestial also." *Divine Love and Wisdom* 422

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Stone Altar Paper



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False God Ideas and True God Ideas

False god	True God
I'm right.	The Lord speaks the truth in His Word.
Nobody cares about me.	The Lord loves everyone—even me.
I don't need others.	The Lord works through people around me.
I'm the best.	The Lord alone has power.
Admitting I'm wrong shows I'm weak.	The Lord gives life.
I don't ever need your help.	I can put the Lord's will above my own.
I must be perfect.	The Lord forgives.
It's important to you, but it will have to wait.	Admitting you're wrong is the first step to starting over.
I don't need to apologize.	The Lord calls me to care for others.
I deserve more.	The Lord creates everything.
I can't help, I'm busy—my favorite show is on.	The Lord knows what's in my heart.
It's ok to throw a tantrum if I don't get my way.	

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