

Conquering Baals in Our Lives Discussion | Joshua 2

Every person born into the world has the opportunity to choose the thoughts and feelings that rule their lives. This quality is the “lord” that “rules over” us. Baal was a Canaanite god. Baal means “lord”. In Canaanite mythology, Baal was lord over all—especially the fertility of the land. Let’s take a closer look at what false “Baals” might be in our own lives.

“Baals” appear to make us powerful and successful. They look good! But their long-term effects in our lives may be very different.

False gods—“Baals”	The True God
It is more important to cheat on a test so I do well in school, than to fail.	It is more important to face the consequences of not studying so I can learn not to make that mistake again, and so that I can really learn what I was supposed to.
Saying unkind things about others behind their backs won’t hurt them.	Making a habit of saying unkind things about others makes doing it seem OK, but the Lord wants me to love and think well of others—just as I hope they think well of me.
It’s OK for me to be angry with my friend. My friend said something that really hurt me—and it was not even true. I think everyone should know what a rotten person she is.	Letting bad feelings rule the way I see things and think about others may lead to a self-centered outlook. Bad feelings come from evil spirits wanting to pull me down to their level. I will be happier if I do not make them welcome in my life.
Getting this game/toy is so important. I will be so happy when I have it.	Things cannot make me happy. True happiness comes from loving and caring about others.
My friend got new clothes. She looks and feels great. I can’t feel good about myself in these old things—I really need something new.	True beauty comes from inside—it is the way I carry myself that is important. I can appreciate my friend’s clothes without being jealous of her.

1. The Land of Canaan in the Word represents the kingdom of heaven. To experience states of heavenly peace and joy, we need to drive the “Baals” out of our own lives. How can we do this?
2. The children of Israel were to drive nations that worshiped idols out of the land. In what ways might this relate to the “Baals” of our lives? What could happen if we let them live?
3. How might knowing about this affect the way we think about friendship with other people or the ways we spend free time? Can we help others with these problems?