



DATE	September 4, 2016
SPEAKER	David Smith
TITLE	Small, Shiny God
SERIES	The book of Judges contains some of the strangest stories you'll ever hear. These unusual stories are entertaining, confusing, dramatic and even a bit crazy. But they also contain deep spiritual insights and truths. You can't make this stuff up!

Introduction:

Today's message is a case study about a family that loved God, but wanted to worship him on their own terms and the lessons it offers.

1. Pastor David said we often fail to see God in our circumstances. Why do you think that might be true? What eye-opening experiences might change this?
2. Do you think surrendering to God is hard for many people? If so, why? How would you address this with someone struggling to surrender? What scripture passages might you use?
3. In Exodus 20:4 did you ever notice that the 2nd commandment is one of the longest? While we don't often see carved images of false gods, how often do people display (at home or online) photos of family, friends, houses, vacations, boats, cars and more that could be viewed as symbols of what we serve? How do you think is the key to balance between enjoying God's blessings and the tendency to idolize them?
4. Do you ever hear or sense that people impose on God a logic or behavioral test? If I do this then God should do that? Or if God loves us then why...? Has today's message changed your perspective on this? If so, how? If not, why?
5. Read Acts 8:9-24 In what ways was Simon the Magician's thinking and actions like Micah's. Can you share a time when you shaped God to fit your life? How did you resolve it?
6. Read Matthew 10:28-30 Is there a difference between believing IN God and believing God? How do you think these verses speak to that? What part does heart transformation play in this process?
7. Read 1 Samuel 13:8-14. What do Saul's actions tell us about what he thought of the things of God? Read Ephesians 2:8,9 and James 2:14-26. What thoughts do they offer about religious activity?
8. Pastor David talked about having a larger, fuller, better life when we trust and follow God, rather than fitting Him to our life. What examples have you observed that support this path?

Conclusion:

As you consider the lessons from today's study, perhaps you should consider this question: Is God shaping your faith or is the culture? What changes might you need to make to lead a God-shaped life? And how might trusting God play a part in this?