

## THE GOLDEN CALF

*Where sin is great God's grace is greater*

THE STORY: EXODUS 29

MONDAY

**Sin must be covered by blood**

Sin must be covered by blood - Aaron and his sons were chosen to serve as priests before the Lord (Exodus 28:1). Aaron had been by Moses' side all through the deliverance of Israel. The Lord had spoken through him to Pharaoh and called him up on the mountain. In spite of this, if Aaron and his sons were to serve as priests in the presence of God, their sin would need to be atoned for. Aaron and his sons were to lay their hands upon a bull and rams. After sacrificing the animals, the blood was to be sprinkled on the altar and some of the blood placed on their ears, hands, and feet. Every day two lambs should be sacrificed; then, the Lord would meet them at the tent of meeting, speak to Moses and live among Israel.

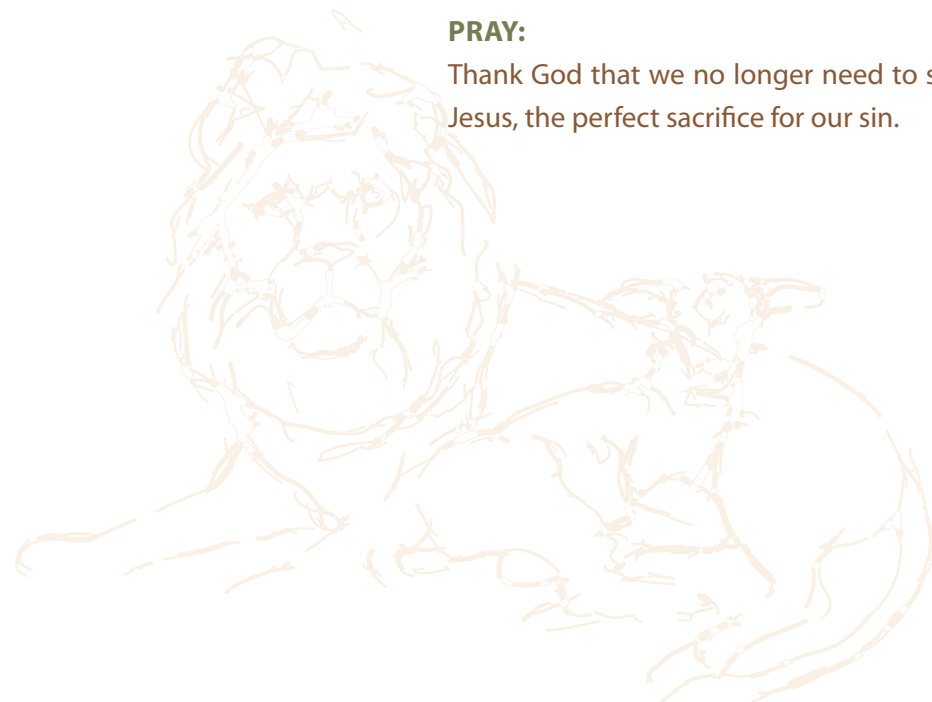
**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why did Aaron and his sons place their hands upon the animals before they were sacrificed? *(By placing their hands upon the animals they were symbolically transferring their sin and guilt to the animals as a substitute. The animals were then killed in their place and their blood placed upon their bodies to cover their sin.)*

Why did the sacrifices need to be repeated day after day after day? *(The blood of animals could not take away sin, only temporarily cover it. When God saw the blood He was reminded of the coming sacrifice of Jesus.)*

**PRAY:**

Thank God that we no longer need to sacrifice animals to cover our sin. We have Jesus, the perfect sacrifice for our sin.





## The people of Israel forgot their vow and sinned against the Lord

The people of Israel forgot their vow and sinned against the Lord – In Exodus 20:23, God told Moses to remind the people, “You shall not make gods of silver to be with me, nor shall you make for yourselves gods of gold.” After Moses gave these and other instructions to the Israelites, they promised to obey. Exodus 24:3 records their response: “All the people answered with one voice and said, ‘All the words that the Lord has spoken we will do.’” God was speaking to Moses on the mountain for many days and the people didn’t know what happened to Moses, if he was alive or dead. Figuring that Moses was gone, they turned their back on God and demanded that Aaron make them gods of gold. Not only did they make a golden calf, but they threw a party and began to celebrate and offer sacrifices to the calf. In this way, they corrupted themselves. Aaron, who was to be consecrated a priest of the true God, led the way into sin.

The people of Israel did not realize that God was completely aware of their sin. He described in detail to Moses the sin of the people. God proclaimed judgment on them and declared that He would wipe them out and save Moses to inherit the promise (see Exodus 32:10).

Moses immediately appealed to God as a mediator. God relented and did not completely destroy Israel.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

Why were the sins of the people and Aaron’s sin particularly evil? *(God had just specifically warned the people not to worship gods along side of Him. Also, Aaron, of all people, should have known better. God had been speaking through Aaron. Aaron participated with Moses in confronting Pharaoh. Aaron threw down the staff upon the ground before Pharaoh, and Aaron stretched out the staff over the Nile. Aaron helped hold up the hands of Moses during the battle of the Amalekites. That’s why it’s sad that Aaron, so greatly used of God, abandoned the Lord and led the people into idolatry.)*

Are we sinners like Aaron? *(Yes, we are just like Aaron. Our idols may not be made of stone, but we have made other idols in our hearts. If we try to live for and love the things of the world, along side God, then we sin just like Israel did.. Ask the children to share the areas of their lives where they struggle with idolatry after doing so yourself.)*

### PRAY:

Confess your sin in prayers before God and ask for His forgiveness.



## Where is Jesus?

Jesus is a superior mediator of a New Covenant. While Moses, Israel's mediator, met with God, the people grew impatient, rejecting Moses. Similarly, Jesus was rejected by His people and put to death on a cross. The religious leaders rejected God's mediator, Moses, and also rejected God's Son, Jesus. In this way, Moses foreshadowed Christ.

"But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt." (Acts 7:39)"

"...then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. He is 'the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone.' Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12)

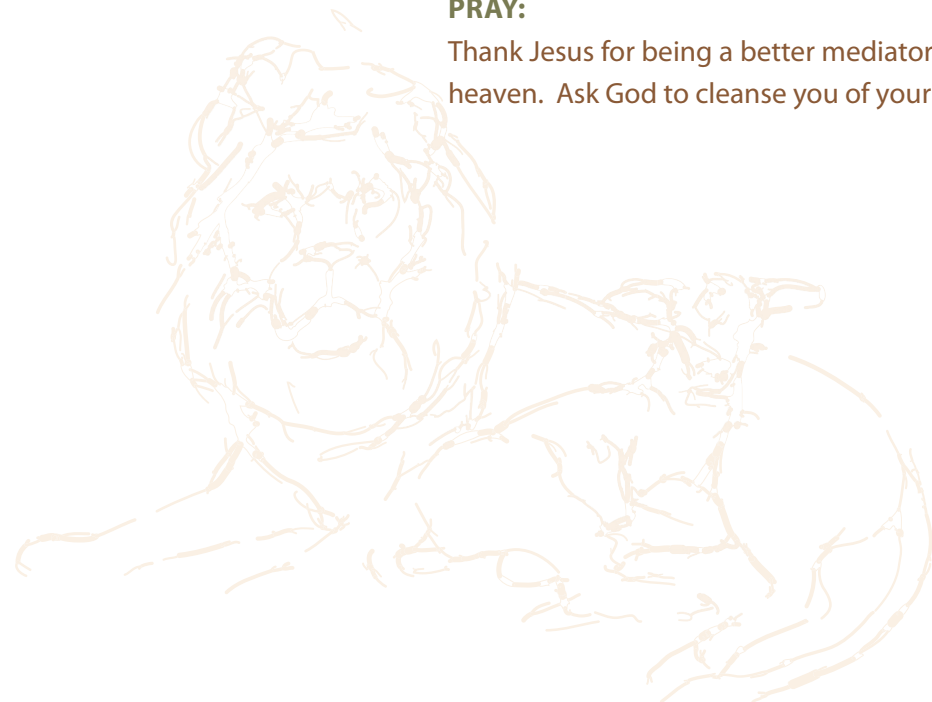
### TALK ABOUT IT:

How does Moses' life model Jesus? *(Both Moses and Jesus brought the word of the Lord to a sinful people, both lead a sinful people out of slavery, both pleaded to God to spare sinners, and both were rejected by the people they came to save.)*

What are the differences between Moses and Jesus? *(Moses as mediator between God and Israel was but a shadow of Jesus. Jesus is a better mediator who brings a better covenant. Moses sinned and could not bring salvation, but Jesus never sinned and his sacrifice purchased salvation. Moses died but Jesus rose again and his blood ever pleads for us before the Father in heaven.)*

### PRAY:

Thank Jesus for being a better mediator who ever pleads for us before His father in heaven. Ask God to cleanse you of your sins through the sacrifice of Jesus.





## Moses interceded on behalf of the people and God relented

Moses interceded on behalf of the people and God relented – Moses implored the Lord not to judge the people, and reminded God of His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Israel (Jacob). He reminded God that He promised to multiply them and make them a great nation. In response to Moses' appeal, the Lord relented.

Moses is a wonderful picture of Jesus, who mediates on our behalf to God. Even now Christ continues to intercede for us, see Romans 8:34. As Moses spoke, God was reminded of His plan of redemption. When Moses said, "I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin" (Exodus 32:30), we see another picture of Christ. Moses offered his life in their place, to be blotted out for the sake of the people. God refused. Moses' life was insufficient to atone for the sins of the people. Nevertheless, we see a foreshadowing of Christ in the life of Moses that reminded God of the future sacrifice of His Son.

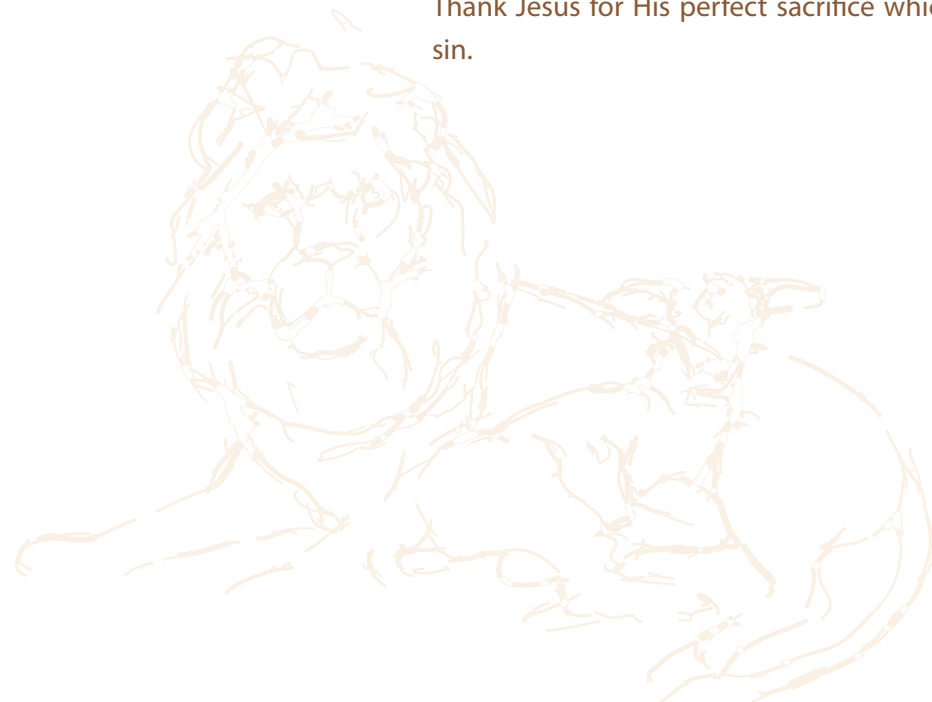
### TALK ABOUT IT:

What would have happened if Moses had not mediated on behalf of the people? *(God said he would wipe them out and start over with Moses. God did something similar before with Noah and his family.)*

Why would Moses' life be insufficient to atone for the sins of Israel? *(Moses himself was a sinner, thus his sacrifice would not be perfect. Only Jesus, who did not sin, was able to make perfect atonement for the sins of man.)*

### PRAY:

Thank Jesus for His perfect sacrifice which is sufficient to pay the penalty for our sin.





## On the road to Emmaus.

Isaiah 53:12 is one of the clearest prophetic passages which speak of Jesus. In this verse we see four characteristics of Jesus: (1) Jesus poured out His soul to death, (2) he was numbered with the transgressors (sinners), (3) he bore the sins of many, and (4) he makes intercession for the transgressors. Jesus gave up His life, and was crucified among thieves. He took our sins upon Himself and even now is at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf as our eternal mediator.

### TALK ABOUT IT:

What in this passage points to Christ? (*[1] Jesus poured out His soul to death, [2] he was numbered with the transgressors [sinners], [3] he bore the sins of many, and [4] he makes intercession for the transgressors.*)

What does the Bible mean when it says He bore the sins of many? (*Jesus had no sin. When it says that He bore our sins, it means that He carried our sins to His death on the cross. Jesus received the full consequence/judgment that our sins deserved.*)

### PRAY:

Thank God for sending Jesus to bear our sins and forever intercede for us before the throne of God in heaven.

