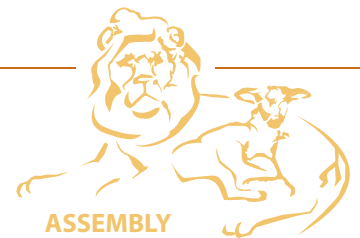


THE GOLDEN CALF

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 32:1-32



The children may be familiar with parts of it already. Read Exodus 32 from the NIV or retell the story yourself in your own words. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

TURNING AWAY FROM THE LORD

Supplies:

a stuffed animal

Have one child play the role of Moses and the other children the Israelites. Have Moses tell the people that he is going to go to talk to God. Have Moses leave. Ask the children to trust the Lord and explain to them that trusting God involves waiting patiently for him. Then instruct the children to act like the Israelites in the story. Have them complain that Moses is taking so long. Then have them ask for another "god". Read Exodus 32:1-4. (You can use a stuffed animal to represent the idol.) Have Aaron present the idol and tell the Israelites that this is now their "god".

Ask the following questions:

- What was wrong with the way the Israelites acted?
- Can you think of a time when they did not want to trust in God?
- Did the Israelites made good choices for themselves?

THE GOLDEN CALF

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 32:1-32

WHAT IS AN IDOL

Ask the children to help you understand what an idol is. They will likely say a calf. See if they can come up with other answers. They might say a statue or give you another animal. Ask them if they know what makes an idol an idol.

Explain to them that an idol is something we want more than God. An idol can be something good that we want too much or worship. Give them examples: perhaps we want a new bike so much that we get angry when we don't get one. Getting angry over something we want is a sure sign that we want it more than we want God. Help them to understand that we have idols today. Though we don't worship calves, we do want things more than God.

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

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.

He was in the assembly in the desert, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers; and he received living words to pass on to us. (Acts 7:38)

But our fathers refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. They told Aaron, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt - we don't know what has happened to him!' That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and held a celebration in honor of what their hands had made.

(Acts 7:39-41)

...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)