

## THE GOLDEN CALF

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: EXODUS 32:1-20



### The STORY

Read "The Calf Made of Gold" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (page 83).

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is an idol? (An idol is anything we worship and say in our hearts is "god". At the time of this story, idols were often statues made to look like certain animals but were said to be "gods".)
- Why is making and worshiping an idol disobedience to God? (Idol worship disobeys the second commandment in Exodus 20:4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything ...")
- What did Moses do when he returned and saw the Israelites worshiping the statue? (Moses threw down on the ground the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments and destroyed the idol-statue of the golden calf.)

### CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: the Israelites worshiping a golden calf. Engage the children by asking:

- What are the people doing around the statue of the golden calf? (They are singing, dancing, and worshiping the idol.)
- Why did Moses get angry when he saw the people singing and dancing and worshiping around this statue? (Moses was angry that the people had turned from the Lord.)

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# SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- What was Israel's idol in this story? (A golden calf)
- What is an idol? (An idol is something we worship instead of God.)
- Why are idols sinful? (They take the place of God in our lives.)
- Can idols help you? (No, there is only one God. Idols are worthless.)
- Why do people worship idols? (They want to control God. They want to see God. In their sin, people do not like to worship a God they cannot see and cannot control.)



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### 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)

## SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

