

EXODUS

“Idolatry”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- The Story of the Passover
- How Idolatry happens in Israel and our own lives
- The purpose of the Tabernacle
- What it means to give an offering to God

Series Theme Verse: “You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus 20:3

Lesson Objective: For students to understand what idolatry is and how it is sin against God.

Lesson Passage: Exodus 32:1-20

Materials Needed: Bibles, theme verse on a poster, white board and markers

Lesson Plan: Remind students that last week, we looked at the final plague that led to the release of the Israelites. Having been led through the desert, the Israelites now come to a place where they must choose who they will worship.

Talking Points: Exodus 32:1-20

- Moses had gone up on the mountain to speak with God, but took a long time in returning. What did the Israelites do when they saw Moses was not returning? (Asked Aaron, Moses’ brother, to make a god for them)
- Why do you think they asked Aaron to do this? (They were used to worshipping idols they could see, especially in Egypt where the culture was filled with idols and gods...old habits are hard to break)
- What was Aaron’s response? (Bring me your gold to melt down and I will)
- What did the idol look like? (A calf, then Aaron built an altar to sacrifice to the calf)
- What did Aaron proclaim? (A festival for the idol)
- What did God tell Moses when God saw all this happening? (God told Moses about the calf and that God was going to destroy the people for worshipping the idol)
- What did Moses do? (Intervened for the people and God decided not to destroy the people)
- When Moses went down the mountain with the stone tablets, what did he do upon seeing the worship of the idol? (Threw down the tablets, breaking them, and melted the calf in the fire, made the people drink the powder of the idol)
- Ultimately, Moses would regain control of the people, but blood was shed and the people were punished through a plague for worshipping the idol.

The Story Retold:

- Idolatry is anything that takes priority over God.
- In our lives today, we may not have golden calves that we worship, but we do still have idolatry in our world and in our lives.
- The Incident at Thor's Oak:
 - In 723AD, an Irish Missionary to the Germanic Tribes came upon a tribe that worship a tree that they saw as a god or dedicated to the god Thor.
 - The missionary tried to explain to the tribe that they should worship the one, true creator God, but the people largely ignored the missionary and continued to worship the tree.
 - The missionary tried to explain that worshipping a tree is pointless, one should worship the Creator God.
 - Still getting little response, the missionary proceed to chop the tree down during the night and the next morning preached to the people on the stump that was left.
 - The message was clear, the people understood that anything that can be destroyed is not to be worshipped.
 - This event is said to begin the Christian movement that swept across the tribal lands that included the Celtic and Germanic Peoples.
- Too often, we commit idolatry by putting other things before God, though it may not be as obvious as worshipping a tree or a golden calf.
- What are some things we worship today, or put before God in our daily lives? List them on the white board.
- What are some ways that we can chop these idols down in our lives and make sure God is our first and only one worshipped in our lives?

The Story and Me:

- Have the series memory verse on a poster.
- Remind students that the Egypt had numerous gods and the Israelites resorted to worshipping something created by human hands, but there is only one true God and that is the God who created us.
- Give each student a note card. Have them write the series theme verse and put in parenthesis something that keeps them from worshipping God so that they can begin to chop this out of their lives, or at least to put it in its rightful place.
- "You shall have no other gods (_____) before me." Exodus 20:3
- Close in prayer over the desire to worship only God in our lives.