

EXODUS

“The Israelites Worshipped a Golden Calf”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- Exodus was the name for the Israelites leaving Egypt
- Israel camped at Mt. Sinai
- Israel worshipped a Golden Calf
- Israel viewed the Promised Land

Series Theme Verse: “The Lord is my God, and I will praise him.” - Exodus 15:2

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that God wanted Israel to worship only God.

Lesson Passage: Exodus 32:1-20

Materials Needed: Bibles, 10 Commands written on ten sheets of paper (one command per piece of paper), theme verse on a poster

Lesson Plan: Remind students that last week, we talked about the Ten Commandments. Give students a chance to show how they memorized the Hand Motions from last week.

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:

- Have each Commandment written out on a piece of paper...10 Commandments, 10 separate sheets of paper.
- Let students put the Commandments in order as a group.
- Ask students if Israel broke any commandments by building and worshipping the golden calf?
- Help students understand that we should only worship God and nothing else.

The Story and Me:

- Have the Series theme verse written on a poster or white board.
- Remind students of the Series Theme Verse and that God wanted the people of Israel only worship God.
- Ask students how we praise or worship God? Have them list as many ideas as possible.
- Say the verse together using the motions from last week and emphasizing how we should only praise God.