

**Bible Passage:** Exodus 32-34**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Moses talked to God for the people. When we sin, Jesus talks to God for us.**Key Passage phrase:** Let's worship God. Psalm 95:6

## LEADER DEVOTIONAL

After all God had done for the Israelites, the story of the Israelites' worshiping a golden calf may seem surprising. How could God's people turn so quickly from God, who delivered them from slavery and provided for them, even after they explicitly agreed to do everything He had commanded? (See Ex. 24:3.) When we think about the reasons why Israel fell into idolatry, we recognize that we are vulnerable to the same follies.

First, we fail to obey God's Word. The Israelites disobeyed the second of the Ten Commandments: "Do not make an idol for yourself." This might sound like an easy commandment to keep; you aren't crafting little statues to worship, right? Idolatry is dangerous because it's rooted in the heart. Our idols don't always look like golden calves. Idols are anything or anyone our sinful hearts look to, seeking what only God provides—such as true joy, meaning, or hope.

Second, we distrust God's purposes. The Israelites stopped trusting in God, who showed Himself to be powerful and good. They wanted their false god to save them. They thought God's plan wasn't working, so they made a plan of their own. Are you ever tempted to do the same? When we forget who God is and think too highly of ourselves or others, we put a person in the place of God.

Third, we forget God's grace. Aaron gave credit to the man-made idol for bringing the Israelites out of Egypt. We might convince ourselves that our success comes from the work of our own hands or the favor of other people. When we forget that every good gift comes from God, we fall into idolatry.

Finally, we fail to use our gifts to the glory of God. Don't miss that the Israelites used the plunder from Egypt—God's provision to them—to make the calf. We too can often use the gifts God has given us for our own satisfaction and to draw attention to ourselves, rather than to the One who gave them to us.

God was angry with the Israelites. He is a jealous God who will not give His glory to another. (See Isa. 42:8.) Yet we see how Moses stepped in between God and the people to intercede on their behalf. As those who have Jesus Christ as our Mediator, we trust in His power to overcome our idolatries and empower us for His mission.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Idolatry:** the worship of idols or excessive devotion to, or reverence for, some person or thing. An idol is anything a person puts in the place of God. Idolatry is a sin.

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## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet preschoolers and welcome them to class. Help children transition in and feel welcome.

*\*\*\* Please remember to reference the class schedules posted in your room for the timing of your class's various activities.*

## BIBLE STORY

Open your Bible to Exodus 32-34 and tell the following Bible story.

### THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED A GOLDEN CALF

*SAY One day, Moses went up a mountain and God talked to him. Moses was on the mountain for a long time. The Israelites were tired of waiting for him to come down.*

*They told Moses' brother, Aaron. "We need a god to lead us." So, Aaron made a gold statue of a calf for them to worship.*

*God saw what the people were doing, and He was angry. Moses rushed down the mountain and destroyed the golden calf. The next day, Moses went back up the mountain. "Please forgive these people," Moses said to God.*

*God said, "They worshiped other statues instead of Me. I will punish them for their sin."*

*God gave Moses more laws and instructions. God said, "The LORD cares about His people. He is good to them. But He will punish people who do wrong."*

*Moses worshiped God. "Lord, please go with us," he said. "Forgive our sin and accept us as Your people."*

*Christ Connection: Moses talked to God for the people. When we sin, Jesus talks to God for us.*

## ACTIVITY

### Cow Pictures

Use provided pictures of cows. Point out the similarities and differences you see. Group cows based on size and color. Explain that a baby cow is a calf. Retell the story.

*Say: The Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold. We are to worship only God. Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives all people through Jesus.*

## SONG

### SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "Frere Jacques."

"Let us worship, let us worship,

Worship God, worship God.

Let us worship God, let us worship God,

\*With our hands, with our hands." (Clap on each beat of the last line.)

\*Repeat with alternate lines such as with our feet (stomp on each beat of the last line) or with a pat (pat lap or knees on each beat of last line).

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## CRAFT

### DECORATE A NUMBER ONE

See example in your bin to make *There is 1 true God!* craft.

*Say: There is only one true God. He is the only one who deserves our worship. God created the world and is in charge of everything. We sin and treat other things like they are more important than God. We deserve to be punished, but God sent Jesus to be punished for us. When we trust in Jesus, God will forgive our sin and give us life with Him forever.*

## SNACK AND PRAYER

Take a restroom break and wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Choose volunteers to help set up for the snack. (Crackers and cups for water located in the cabinet above the sink.) Pray and thank God for the snack.

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Before doing closing activities, please have the children help you clean up the toys and materials that have been used today. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let kids work on today's **Bible Story Coloring Page** until their parents arrive. You can also choose a book to read to the children as they color or for those who don't want to color. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged when parents arrive.

When parents arrive to pick up their children, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

- 1) Clean toys with provided alcohol wipes.
- 2) Use sanitizing spray to wipe down tables.
- 3) Sweep up any cracker crumbs or dirt.
- 4) Please return your bin, binder, and sign-in clipboard to the resource room across from Toddler A.