

## Lesson 5: The Golden Calf and the Stone Tablets

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Study Exodus 32 and see what happened after Moses had spent 40 days and nights with God on Mount Sinai.
- 2) See the importance of obedience to God and His Son Jesus.
- 3) Do activities to help remember the story and the importance of obedience to God.

### Supplies:

#### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Moses Breaks the Tablets Color Page – one sheet per student
- Moses Fury Puzzle Craft – one sheet per student
- Scissors to share
- Glue sticks to share

#### Optional:

- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

#### Snack:

- Two Cheese or Fruit Pieces – Shaped like Stone Tablets two per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

### Lesson:

#### 1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Once children are seated say:

**Does anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied the plans for the tabernacle/tent – this was the sanctuary or special place for God that He would dwell with the Israelites as they went through the wilderness. We looked at the furniture, the design, and what the priests were to do and wear.

**This week we will see what happens when Moses comes down from the mountain after spending time with God and see the importance of obedience!**

#### 2) The Idolatry of the Israelites – The Golden Calf

10-15 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Ask children to get their Bibles and turn to Exodus 24. Ask for a volunteer to read from **Exodus 24:15-18 and 31:18** or read yourself. After you have finished the reading, say:

**How long was Moses on the mountain?** 40 days and 40 nights.

**That is a long time – over a month!**

**When the time was over what did God give Moses?** 2 stone Tablets of the Testimony that were inscribed by the finger of God. – These were the commandments written on stone.

**What do you think the Israelites were doing during these 40 days while they waited for Moses, knowing that God's glory was on the mountain that looked like a consuming fire and knowing that they just promised to obey God and follow Him? And, knowing that Aaron, his 2 sons, and seventy elders 40 days earlier had sat and ate with God?** Let students answer or guess.

**Let's now turn to Exodus 32 and read to see what the Israelites did while Moses was with God.** Get volunteers to read **Exodus 32:1-8** if able.

**Why did the people want Aaron to take over?** Because they thought Moses had taken too long and they assumed he had died or was not coming back.

**What does that show us about patience?** We need to remember to be patient and not assume something bad has happened or that God is not real, just because He doesn't respond as quick as we expect.

**What did they want Aaron to do?** Make them gods to worship

**What did Aaron make?** A golden calf

**What materials did he use?** The Israelites gold jewelry.

**What did they say about the calf in verse 4?** These were the gods that brought us out of Egypt.

**Was that true?** No!

**How do you think that made God feel?** Very sad and angry

**How can people do that today – put something in place of God?** Let students answer.

**How do you think God feels when people do that?** The same – sad and angry

**What did God tell Moses to do?** Go down from the mountain.

**Ask for a volunteer(s) to now read Exodus 32:9-24**

**What did God want to do?** Destroy them and make a nation out of Moses instead.

**What did Moses say?** Do not, for the Egyptians will think God brought them out to the wilderness to kill them and because God had promised Abraham that He would make his descendants into a great nation.

**When Moses went down the mountain and met up with Joshua who was waiting for him what did he say?** The people were singing and Joshua was not sure what was going on.

**What did Moses do when he saw the people?** Broke the tablets, burned the calf and made the Israelites drink the water of the calf ashes.

**What was Aarons excuse?** He said he took the gold threw it into the fire and out came the calf.

**Was that true? Look at 32:2-4.** No – he lied – he had to make a cast and fashioned it into the shape of a calf with a tool.

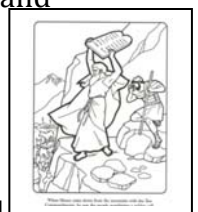
**We will finish the rest of the chapter after this next activity.**

Ask the students if they have any questions before moving on to the next activity.

### **3) Moses Breaks the Tablets Color Page**

**10-15 minutes**

Have students color the page, discuss any questions about why Moses would be angry and how sad and angry God was with the people because of their disobedience. We need to remember that God can get angry with us too if we don't follow and obey Him and His Son – Jesus. But even more important is making God sad with our actions. Let's remember that when we turn away from God and disobey Him through the Bible, we Make Him sad, because He loves us and does so much for us. So instead, let's make God



Happy by doing things like we are doing today – learning about His love for us, and obeying Him by coming to workshop!

After students are done coloring continue reading **Exodus 32:25-35**.

**What did Moses ask in verse 26?** Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.

**Who came?** The Levites – the descendants from Levi – one of Jacob’s sons.

**What did Moses tell them to do?** Kill those who were sinning with the sword.

**What did Moses tell the Levites in verse 29?** You have been set apart to the LORD this day and He has blessed you.

**What did Moses do then?** Go and ask forgiveness for their sins to God.

**What did God do to those who had taken part in the sin?** Sent a plague.

**Does that mean not all the Israelites were involved?** Yes.

**When people today do ungodly things, how can we be right with God?** Not do those things, stay away from the bad things the people are doing and not take part.

Ask if there are any questions before moving on.

#### 4) Moses Fury Puzzle Craft

10-15 minutes

Hand out one page to each child along with markers or pencil crayons. Explain to them that, **“When Moses was with God, God told him to go down the mountain because the Israelites had already disobeyed and created and worshiped an idol. Color the following page, then cut out the squares at the bottom and glue them into the right spot above.**

Hand out scissors and glue and help younger students cut and glue if needed.



#### 5) Optional: Jesus Says (Version of Simon Says Game)

5-10 minutes

Instead of playing Simon says, play Jesus says. The idea is you ask the students to do different things that would show obedience to Jesus. If you say “Jesus” says – they do the activity. If you just say an activity they should not do it because you didn’t say “Jesus says”.

Here are some ideas to get started, you can add your own as well or have students take turns being the person that picks what the others do that show obedience.

- Jesus says clean your room (pretend to clean)
- Jesus says go to bed (lay down and pretend to fall asleep)
- Jesus says do your homework (pretend to do homework)
- Jesus says go to church (pretend walking towards building)
- Jesus says help your mother (act like they are helping mom with something)
- Jesus says stand up straight (practice good posture)
- Jesus says eat your supper before desert (pretend to eat)
- Jesus says brush your teeth (pretend to brush teeth)
- Jesus says give a hug (pretend to hug)
- Jesus says say thank you (say thank you)
- Jesus says say I love you (say I love you)
- Jesus says help someone older across the street (pretend to walk with someone)

## 6) Optional – Snack: 2 Cheese or Fruit Slices in Tablet Shape

5 minutes

Hand out two slices to each child along with a glass of water. State that **this week we learned that while Moses was with God, the Israelites made and worshiped a false idol – a golden calf. This made Moses angry so he broke the tablets of stone God gave him, because the Israelites had broken the laws on it. Take your slices and break them in half like Moses did – then you can eat them. Remember that unlike the Israelites we need to remember to always obey God and Jesus and do as they say. We should never worship anything or one besides God and His Son Jesus!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

## 7) Close in prayer

If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Remember to thank God for the Old Testament. Thank God that He teaches us through the Old Testament examples of how we should treat God and not worship anyone else besides God and His Son Jesus. Help us to remember to always serve God with a glad and sincere heart and to want to do the good things He asks us too. Pray for those who are away or sick. In Jesus precious name, Amen.