

Journal Page

God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from sin. When we trust in Him, our sins are forgiven! Write a few sentences about how this good news makes you feel.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why did Aaron make a golden calf?
- Moses talked to God for the Israelites. Who talks to God for us?
- An *idol* is anything a person puts in the place of God. What things might be idols in your life?



The Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-35; 34:1-9

MAIN POINT: GOD PUNISHED HIS PEOPLE FOR WORSHIPPING A GOLDEN CALF.

Moses and the Israelites came to Mount Sinai. Moses went up the mountain, and God spoke to him. Moses was up on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights. Meanwhile, the Israelites camping at the base of the mountain were getting impatient. They went to Moses' brother, Aaron. "Make us a god to lead us," they said. So Aaron made a gold calf that they could worship.

God saw what the people were doing, and He was angry because of their sin. "Please forgive them," Moses said. "Remember the great promise You made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." So God decided not to destroy them.

Moses went down the mountain. He carried two stone tablets on which God had written the laws. Moses got closer to the camp and saw that the people were dancing before the gold calf! He threw down the stone tablets, smashing them at the bottom of the mountain. Then he destroyed the calf they made.

The next day, Moses said, "I will go up to the Lord. Maybe I can do something to make up for your sin."

Moses said to God, "Please forgive their sin."

God continued to meet with Moses and give him laws and instructions. He made two more stone tablets to replace the ones Moses broke. One morning, Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. The Lord said, "Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God ... but He will not leave the guilty unpunished."

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

Christ Connection: God's people sinned against God, and Moses asked God to forgive them. Moses acted as their mediator, standing for them before God. Moses could not do anything to make up for their sin, but we have a better Mediator—Jesus. Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and stands for us before God. When we trust in Jesus, our sins are forgiven.

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