

# The Golden Calf

## ELEMENTARY LESSON



**Theme:** Worship God and Him alone.

**Scripture:** Exodus 32:1-14

**Memory Verse:** "Then the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf.'" Exodus 32:7-8

**Get Ready:** Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

## The Children's Sermon:

### You'll Need:

- **A small statue**

### Do This:

Explain to the kids that each time you hold up the statue that you brought with you, that they have to freeze like a statue. They must hold their frozen statue pose until you are no longer holding the statue up in the air. You will do this multiple times as you tell today's lesson so encourage them to pay close attention.

**SAY:** **Who can tell me what this is?** (Give time for answers.) **That's right, it's a statue.** (Hold it up and kids freeze.) **How many of you have statues** (Hold it up and kids freeze.) **in your home? Have you ever seen any statues in parks around the**

**city? Perhaps you've seen a statue of a famous baseball player or an artist or author. I once went to a park with statues of characters from books by Dr. Seuss. My favorite was Horton the elephant.**

**Statues are fine unless they become something that we worship other than God.**  
(Hold it up and kids freeze.) **When we do that, the statue becomes an idol that replaces our God.**

**That is what our Bible lesson is about this morning. Moses was up on a mountain called Mt. Sanai. I am sure that you remember that God had told Moses to go up on the mountain so that God could give him the Ten Commandments for the people to follow.**

**Now Moses stayed up on the mountain longer than the people thought he should.**  
(Hold it up and kids freeze.) **They went to Aaron and said to him, "We want you to create gods who will go before us so that we will know what way to go. As for this fellow, Moses, who brought us out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."**

**Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings you are wearing and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took all the gold they had given to him and made it into an idol in the shape of a calf.**  
(Hold it up and kids freeze.) **The people were very happy with the idol that had been made for them.**

**When Aaron saw how happy the people were, he built an altar for the calf. He said, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord and you are to rise up early and make a sacrifice of burnt offerings before the calf."** (Hold it up and kids freeze.)

**When God saw what the people were doing, He became very angry and told Moses that He was going to destroy the people because of their unfaithfulness. But Moses begged the Lord to remember the promise that He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and the children of Israel. Moses convinced the Lord and He changed His mind and did not do what He said He might do—He did not destroy them.**

**What can we learn from this? We sometimes put other things before God. It may not be an idol made of gold in the shape of a calf, but it may be things like money, friends, or sports. Anything we put ahead of our love for God becomes an idol and that is a big mistake.**

**PRAY:** Dear God, let us always remember that You created us and all we have. You must always have first place in our life. In Jesus' name, amen.

## **Bible Memory Verse**

*“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf.’ ” Exodus 32:7-8*

### **You'll Need:**

- **Newsprint**
- **Yellow construction paper**
- **Bibles (one per team)**

**Get Ready:** Before class, cut out golden “spots” from yellow construction paper. On each spot, write a word or phrase from today’s Bible memory verse and then mix them up face up on the floor. On the white newsprint, draw an outline of a calf and hang it on the wall.

## **Do This:**

Say: **Today we’re learning that we are to worship God and Him alone. The Isralites didn’t really follow that command and our Bible memory verse sheds some light on what they did.**

Have kids follow these steps:

- Open their Bibles to Exodus 32:7-8
- One by one, allow kids to place a golden spot on the calf in order of the Bible memory verse.
- After all the spots are placed in order on the calf, invite the class to read through the verse together.
- Take a couple of spots down each round and see if the kids can remember the entire verse.

Encourage kids to share their Bible memory verse at home with their families.

**SAY:** The lesson of the golden calf teaches that we are to worship God and Him alone.

## **Virtual Lesson Tip**

*Do this with the entire family.*

# Interactive Scripture Experience:

## Say No to Idols Posters

### You'll Need:

- **Bibles (one per child)**
- **Construction Paper**
- **Markers**

### Do This:

Form five groups (a group can be one child). Assign a different Scripture to each team.

- 1 Corinthians 10:14
- 1 John 5:21
- Jonah 2:8
- Leviticus 19:4
- Psalm 135:15-18

Give each group a piece of construction paper and markers.

- Explain that each individual/group will look up their Scripture in the Bible.
- Invite them to create a poster that displays the truth of that Scripture. (They can choose whether to write the verse on the poster or not.)

- Once everyone is finished, allow each group/individual to share their poster.

**ASK:**

- What other truths did these Scriptures teach us about idols?
- What did you learn about why God does not want us to have idols?

**SAY:** In today's Bible lesson, God was angry when His people created an idol to worship instead of Him. These other Scriptures we have seen displayed through your posters also show us how important it is to not make an idol out of anything. We are to worship God and Him alone.

**Virtual Lesson Tip**

*Do this with the entire family.*

## “What’s an Idol?” Video Lesson

**You’ll Need:**

- [“What’s an Idol?”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

**Do This:**

Show them the video.

**ASK:**

- What did you learn about what an idol is?
- Is there anything that you are loving more than God today?

## No Idols Snacks

### You'll Need:

- Cupcakes - 1 per child
- Yellow Icing
- Mini M&M's - 10 per child
- Paper plates
- Plastic knives
- Napkins

### Do This:

Give each child a cupcake, a plastic knife, and a paper plate.

**SAY:** In today's Bible lesson we learn that we are to worship God alone. That's not exactly what the Israelites did, is it?

- Invite each child to ice their cupcake with yellow icing.
- Have them place 10 mini M&Ms to remember that we worship and obey God alone.

**SAY:** While Moses was meeting with God, the people gathered to make a golden calf to worship. Can you believe that? Did that make God happy or angry? (Allow

kids to answer.) **God was very angry. After all the ways He had provided for His people, they chose to worship something else.**

## Creative Building

### You'll Need:

- **Two matching sets of random supplies found in a classroom or resource room, such as...**
  - **Pipe cleaners**
  - **Legos**
  - **Rubber bands**
  - **Shoe boxes**
  - **Paper plates**
  - **Markers**
  - **Tape**
  - **Glue**
  - **Popsicle sticks**
  - **etc.**

### Do This:

Form two teams. Explain that each team will have the exact same supplies. Each round, you will give them a challenge of something to build. The team with the most creative creation wins. (Encourage kids to be creative with their supplies and what they decide to build.)

- Round One - something you would find at a zoo
- Round Two - something in your house
- Round Three - something in today's lesson

**SAY:** You guys were very creative, but do any of your creations have power? Are any of them as good as God Himself? In today's Bible lesson, we learn that Aaron told the people to take off their gold earrings. They melted down the gold and formed a golden calf to worship. God was not happy with their disobedience because He told them to worship Him alone.

### Virtual Lesson Tip

*Do this with the entire family.*

## Our God Is #1

### You'll Need:

- "You're #1" handout - 1 per child
- Cardstock
- Markers and/or crayons
- Rulers and/or wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Tape

**Get Ready:** Photocopy a “You’re #1” handout on a sheet of cardstock for each child.

## **Do This:**

To make the “You’re #1” sticks, have kids follow these steps:

- Write words of praise on the #1.
- Cut out the hand.
- Tape the hand to a ruler or craft stick.
- Hold it in the air like you would at a sporting event.

If time allows, invite them to make up a chant to go with their “You’re #1” stick.

## Aluminum Prayers

### **You’ll Need:**

- [The Golden Calf How-to video](#)
- **Lightweight aluminum foil - 3 feet per child**

### **Do This:**

**SAY:** Today we learned that we are to worship God alone and not make idols. Now we may not have a golden calf in our lives, but an idol is anything we put before God. Do you ever put things like friends, TV, toys, or family before God? We can

**certainly love those things, but we are to love God most of all. Take your piece of aluminum foil and shape it into something you may have as an idol in your life.**

Allow kids plenty of time to shape their idol and be prepared to direct them if they are confused about an idol in their life.

After they have completed their idol, instruct them to hold it out in their hands. Lead them in prayer to give it to God and silently ask God to help them not worship anything more than Him. After they have silently prayed, invite them to stomp on their aluminum idol.

**PRAY:** God, we are sinners and at times we worship things more than we worship You. Search our hearts and show us our sin and how we can always put You first. In Jesus' name, amen.

## Time to Praise God

### You'll Need:

- "Rejoice, the Lord Is King"

[Words and Music](#) (pdf)

[MP3 Accompaniment](#) Track

**SAY:** We are called to worship God and God alone. Let's come before Him in song right now. He is worthy of our praise.

Lead children in singing "Rejoice, the Lord Is King."

### If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

[The Golden Calf Crossword](#)

[The Golden Calf Decoder](#)

[The Golden Calf Multiple Choice](#)

[The Golden Calf Word Search](#)

## Complete Supply List:

- [Construction Paper](#)
- [Markers](#)
- [Cupcakes](#)
- [Yellow icing](#)
- [Mini M&Ms](#)
- [Pipe cleaners](#)
- [Legos](#)
- [Rubber bands](#)
- [Tape](#)
- [Glue](#)
- [Popsicle Sticks](#)
- [Cardstock](#)
- [Rulers](#) or [wooden craft sticks](#)
- [Lightweight aluminum foil](#)

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# The Golden Calf

## AT-HOME LESSON

**Theme:** Worship God and Him alone.

**Scripture:** Exodus 32:1-14

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### Do This:

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## **"What's an Idol?" Video Lesson**

### **You'll Need:**

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- **Something to play the video**

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## Complete Supply List:

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