



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 5 • Session 3

THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED A GOLDEN CALF

Exodus 32-34

WHAT IS WORSHIP? WORSHIP IS CELEBRATING THE GREATNESS OF GOD.

Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights. The Israelites at the bottom of the mountain were getting impatient. The Israelites went to Moses' brother, Aaron. "Make us a god to lead us," they said. "We don't know what happened to Moses." So Aaron collected gold from the people and made a statue of a calf that they could worship.

God saw what the people were doing, and He was angry. "I will destroy these people," God said.

Moses said, "Remember the great promise You made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." So God did not destroy them.

Moses went down the mountain and saw that the people were dancing before the golden calf! He threw down the stone tablets. Then he destroyed the golden calf.

The next day, Moses went back up the mountain to talk to God. "Please forgive their sin."

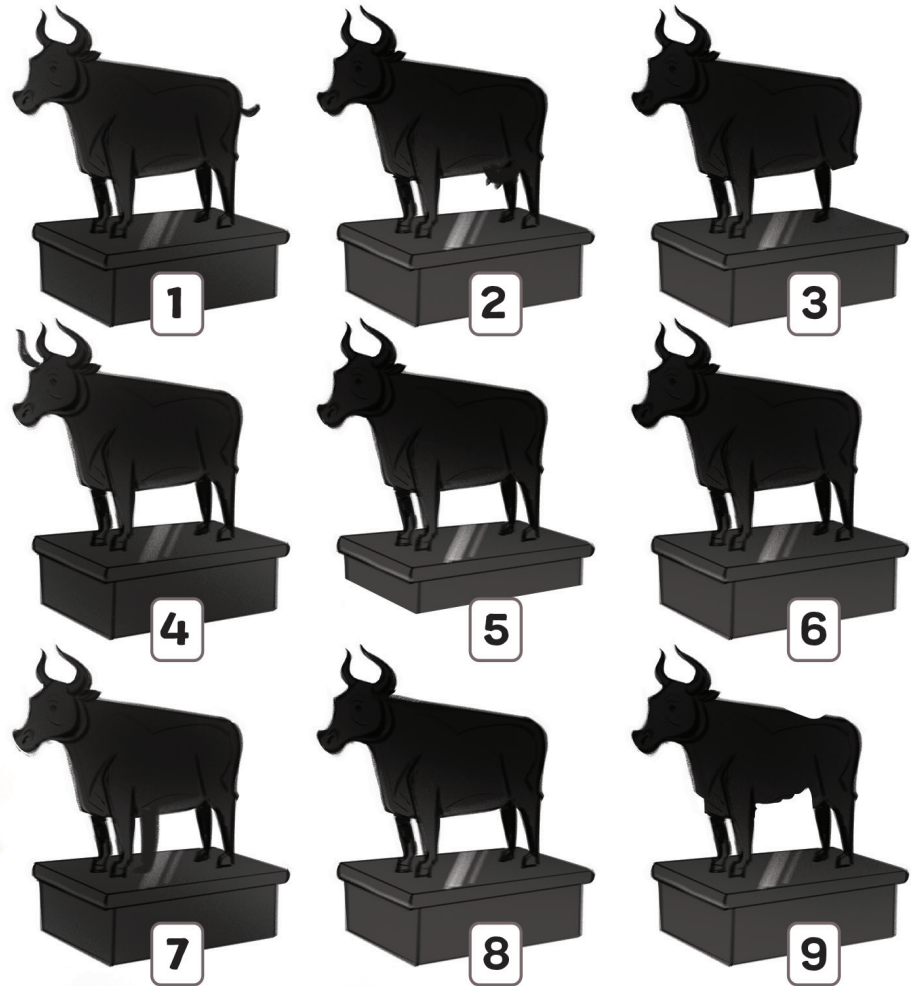
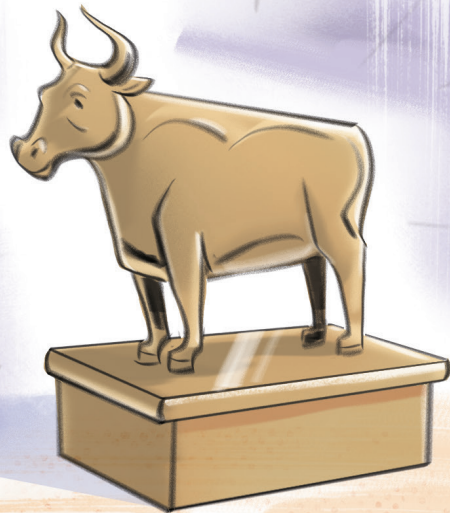
God told Moses to return to the people and lead them. "When the time comes, I will punish them for their sin," God said.

God continued to meet with Moses and give him laws and instructions. God came down in a cloud. He said, "The LORD 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: Moses acted as the people's 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.

Image of Gold | Only one of the silhouettes here has the same details as the golden calf. Can you tell which and spot the differences in the others?



How Did It Happen? | Number the events from Exodus 32 in the order they happened.

The Israelites wondered if Moses was still alive.

Moses asked God to forgive the Israelites for their sin.

Moses destroyed the golden calf.

The Israelites asked Aaron to make a god to lead them.

God said He is compassionate but will punish the guilty.

Moses bowed down and worshiped God.