



UNIT 5 | SESSION 3

THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED A GOLDEN CALF

EXODUS 32-34

CHRIST CONNECTION: God forgives people through Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Let's worship God. Psalm 95:6

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- The Israelites worshiped a calf made out of gold.
- Moses asked God to forgive the people.
- God forgives people through Jesus.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

While Moses was on a mountain getting God's special rules, the Israelites got tired of waiting. They asked Moses' brother, Aaron, to give them a statue to worship. So Aaron made a calf out of gold. The people worshiped the golden calf instead of God. God was angry and decided to punish them. Moses destroyed the golden calf. He asked God to forgive the people and be with them.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for the babies. Open a Bible to Exodus 32. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A SONG

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“If you’re happy and you know it, worship God. (repeat)

If you’re happy and you know it, then your praise will surely show it.

If you’re happy and you know it, worship God.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says ‘Let’s worship God.’ The Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold, but we should only worship God. ”

2 ZIPPED BAG ART

Print *God Forgives People* on a piece of construction paper. Place the paper inside a gallon-sized ziplock bag. Place two or three dabs of paint onto the paper inside the bag and zip shut. Consider double bagging and sealing with duct tape to prevent leaks. Allow babies to pat on the bag. Take the paper out of the bag and allow the paint to dry.

SAY “ In our story, God’s people did not obey God’s rules. Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives people through Jesus. ”

3 PLAY WITH COWS

Provide a stuffed or plastic cow for babies to play with and hold. Demonstrate the noise cows make. Moo with babies as they play with the cows. Explain that a calf is a baby cow. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ The Israelites worshiped a calf made out of gold. God’s people did not obey God’s rules. Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives people through Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Exodus 32. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 WORSHIP ONLY GOD

Provide instruments (or items that can be used as instruments). Allow toddlers to play music and sing songs. Take breaks in playing music to remind toddlers that they can worship God by playing instruments. We should only worship God.

SAY “ The Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold, but we are to worship only God. The people disobeyed God. Moses asked God to forgive the people and to be with them. ”

3 MAKE AND DESTROY A GOLDEN CALF

Use foam blocks to build a “golden calf.” Allow toddlers to play, taking turns building and knocking down the blocks. Explain that God’s people built the calf, but that Moses destroyed it. Review the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY “ The Israelites worshiped a calf made out of gold. Moses destroyed the golden calf and asked God to forgive the people. God forgives people through Jesus. ”

4 MAKE A PLAY DOUGH CALF

Encourage toddlers to make a “golden calf” out of play dough and play dough tools. Make sure toddlers smash it when they are done. See if the toddlers can guess which rule God’s people disobeyed. Provide the commandment: “Do not worship anyone but Me.”

SAY “ The Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold. The people disobeyed God’s rule. God was angry. But Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives people through Jesus. ”

5 EXAMINE COW PICS

Bring different 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. ”

THE PEOPLE WORSHIPED A GOLDEN CALF

EXODUS 32–34

CHRIST CONNECTION: God forgives people through Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Let's worship God. Psalm 95:6

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: HULA HOOP TOSS

Place a hula hoop on the floor. Instruct toddlers to stand behind the hoop. Have each toddler take turns saying the key passage phrase “Let’s worship God,” and then throwing a bean bag into the hula hoop. Play, allowing toddlers to take steps toward or away from the hoop in order to alter the level of difficulty.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase is ‘Let’s worship God’ Psalm 95:6. The Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold. We are supposed to worship only God. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Deep and Wide.”

“God forgives. God forgives.

God forgives His people. God forgives.” (Repeat)

3 WORSHIP GOD ALONE

Print each child’s name and *Worships God Alone* on a piece of construction paper. Allow toddlers to decorate with craft supplies, including gold stickers.

SAY “ God forgives people through Jesus. The Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold instead of God. We are to worship God alone. ”

4 GOD FORGIVES SIGN LANGUAGE

Say “God Forgives” while using sign language. When saying “God”, place your right hand in front of your head (thumb touching forehead), then pull your hand down to your chest area. When saying “forgives”, hold your left hand in front of you with your palm up. Use your right hand to swipe away from you over your right hand.

SAY “ God forgives people through Jesus. Even though the Israelites worshiped a calf made of gold, Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgave them. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.