

## The Golden Calf

Week 9

**Teaching Point** – God is disappointed when we don't obey His rules.

### Games:

**Simon Says** – The leader gives out an instruction like 'hop on one leg'. The children only obey an instruction if the leader starts it with 'Simon says...' If there is no 'Simon Says'... they must not do it. Play the game for a few minutes and see if there are any players who managed to get through the whole game without making a mistake.

**Captain's Coming**– The leader shouts out sea-themed instructions e.g. 'scrub the deck' and the children have to do the appropriate action (pretending to scrub the deck). Other instructions could be Port! Starboard! Fore! Aft! Climb the rigging etc. Make sure that the leader in charge gives the instructions randomly and frequently to make it more fun.

**Chinese Whispers** – Get the children to sit in a circle. Whisper a phrase to one of them. They then pass the phrase to the next one and so on around the circle. When the phrase gets to the last person ask them what they have been told and compare that to what you first gave them.

**Introduction** – Get the children to think about times they have broken the rules. How did they feel? What effect did it have on themselves and others?

**Story** – Exodus 32 Remind the children of last week's story and pick up where they left off using the Power Play in the resources section or by telling the story yourself. The story is quite dramatic and could be best presented through role play.

**Application** – Refer back to your discussion in the introduction. Talk about who might get hurt or upset if we don't obey the rules or don't have any at all? If we do upset someone how can we make it up to them? Moses asked for forgiveness when God was angered by the people making false idols and disobeying Him. We might think that people make rules to annoy us or stop us enjoying ourselves, but rules can be there for our safety and well-being. God was blessing his people by giving them rules to help guide their lives by. He was caring for them. When we break rules we not only upset others but we can put ourselves in danger. When we do break the rules we don't need to go around feeling guilty. However we do need to admit we were wrong and try hard not to do it again. God will help us do this.

**Memory Verse** – *'Teach me, Lord, what you want me to do, and I will obey you faithfully.'* Psalm 86 v 11. Draw a calf shape on a piece of card. Write the memory verse on it and cover it up with pieces of paper. The children have to roll a dice. If they roll a number 6 they get to remove a piece, to reveal the verse. If there is more than one team, have enough copies of the picture.

**Prayer** – There is a version of the Lord's Prayer with actions in the resources section. Tell the children the Israelites might have prayed in a similar way to worship God and to ask for forgiveness for disobeying Him. Make it clear that they would not have used this exact prayer as it was Jesus who taught this to us.

**Resources** - Funsheet, power play, Lord's prayer.

# The Golden Calf

Week 9

Read the story in Exodus 32 then answer these questions:

## True or False

1. The people knew how God wanted them to worship Him. T/F
2. The people had promised they would obey God. T/F
3. Moses was gone for over a year. T/F
4. The golden calf appeared by itself from the fire. T/F
5. Breaking promises to God brings better results. T/F



*'Teach me Lord, what you want me to do,  
and I will obey you faithfully.'*

*Psalm 86:11*

**What rules should you obey?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there some you can *choose* to obey?** \_\_\_\_\_



## WORDSEARCH

A	E	M	O	S	E	S	G	O	I
A	N	I	D	L	A	T	C	D	G
R	M	G	O	A	R	O	A	N	S
N	G	R	R	E	R	N	L	O	T
O	E	O	G	Y	I	C	F	Y	O
B	N	M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N
A	U	E	L	A	G	O	L	D	E
N	B	I	L	T	S	I	N	L	S
E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	Y

- |       |           |          |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| AARON | MOSES     | STONE    |
| ANGRY | EARRINGS  | MOUNTAIN |
| GOLD  | SACRIFICE | CALF     |

## The Lord's Prayer

**Father God, you're great!**

*(thumbs up)*

**I want You to be in charge here**

*(point to the sky)*

**Please give us what we need**

*(bring arms in towards chest)*

**I'm sorry, forgive me and**

**help me to forgive others too**

*(put hands together like you're praying)*

**Keep me safe and don't let me**

**give in to doing wrong things**

*(give yourself a hug)*

**You're wonderful and**

**You always will be**

*(big circle with arms)*

**Yesssssssss!**

*(raise arms to sky)*

## Moses and the Golden Calf (A Powerplay)

Week 9

(This story begins after Moses has gone up Mount Sinai to collect the Ten Commandments of God)

Moses (\*\*\*\*) was away for a long time and the people of Israel (\*\*\*\*) became discontented and bored. They called Aaron (\*\*\*\*) and said 'We want a god (\*\*\*\*) we can see and touch. Let's build one. (\*\*\*\*)

Now Aaron (\*\*\*\*) was afraid (\*\*\*\*) of the people (\*\*\*\*) and although he knew it was wrong (\*\*\*\*) he gave orders for all the people (\*\*\*\*) to bring their gold to be melted down and to be made into a golden calf (\*\*\*\*) that they could worship. Then the people of Israel (\*\*\*\*) were very happy, they danced (\*\*\*\*) round the golden calf (\*\*\*\*) and soon they became very wicked and evil. (\*\*\*\*)

Meanwhile Moses (\*\*\*\*) heard the noise and God (\*\*\*\*) told him to go down the mountain because the people (\*\*\*\*) were being very wicked and evil. (\*\*\*\*) Moses (\*\*\*\*) was angry (\*\*\*\*) when he saw the golden calf. (\*\*\*\*) He threw down the two stone tablets.

God (\*\*\*\*) was very angry (\*\*\*\*) with all the people (\*\*\*\*) and Moses (\*\*\*\*) prayed (\*\*\*\*) for forty days and nights. He did not eat or drink anything, but prayed (\*\*\*\*) that God (\*\*\*\*) would not destroy all the people (\*\*\*\*).

Then Moses (\*\*\*\*) threw the golden calf (\*\*\*\*) into the fire and destroyed it. The people (\*\*\*\*) were very sorry for being so wicked and evil (\*\*\*\*) and turned back to God. (\*\*\*\*)

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Moses – *walk left, right on the spot*

People (of Israel) – *point to everyone*

Aaron – *call 'Aaron'*

Build one – *put fists one on top of other in building action*

Afraid – *look terrified*

Wrong – *wag a finger and say, 'tut tut'*

Calf – *moo like a cow*

Danced round – *dance on the spot*

Wicked and evil – *wring hands and pull evil face*

God – *point up*

Angry – *shake a fist*

Prayed – *hands together*