



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for September 19, 2010
Released on Wednesday, September 15, 2010**

"The People Disobeyed"

Lesson Text: Exodus 32:1-10

Background Scripture: Exodus 32

Memory Verse: "[The people] have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them" (Exodus 32:8).

Exodus 32:1-10

1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the Lord.

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

7 And the Lord said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

9 And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

TEACHER'S NOTES

This week's Bible passage shows the human propensity toward idolatry. Even as God was giving Moses His laws against idolatry, the people were violating them in the most flagrant way possible. It also shows the human need for God above all. When they thought their leader might be gone, they immediately began calling for gods, possibly thinking those gods would guide them.

When the people demanded that Aaron make the people an idol, he did not even try to reason with them. He had just seen a mighty demonstration of God's power and superiority over the gods of Egypt, which had been shown to have no power. Yet he gave in immediately to the people's demands and called for gold earrings with which to make an idol.

Somehow Aaron must have learned some of the methods of metalworking. He must have melted down the earrings and perhaps poured them into some kind of mold. Then he worked it himself, fashioning or engraving it with a tool. He claimed that the resulting calf, which he had just made himself from lifeless objects, was Israel's god that brought them out of Egypt.

Aaron intended the calf for worship, not only calling it their god but also building an altar before it. The calf idol stole glory that should have gone to God, for they claimed it had led them out of Egypt. Aaron then seemed to imply that the calf was a representation of the Lord, since he proclaimed a feast to the Lord centered around the calf.

The people offered different kinds of offerings to the calf. They had a feast and made merry. No one seemed to object to the fact that they were actually worshiping an idol, like those that had failed so dismally in Egypt, instead of the Lord God, who had prevailed.

God knew and saw what was happening in the camp even as He gave Moses His laws high on the mountain. He told Moses to go back down the mountain because the people had become corrupt. As Moses headed back, he already knew there was a serious problem, and he knew that God was aware of it and was displeased with it.

God told Moses exactly what had happened. He regarded this act as turning aside from His way. What was God's evaluation of the people? He saw them as stiff-necked—stubbornly determined to go an evil way.

God was ready to destroy them for this act of idolatry. To do so would not have destroyed His promise to make of Abraham a great nation or to bring a Saviour into the world, for He was able to make a great nation out of Moses alone. God is not limited. He has many ways to accomplish His work. Yet God knew that He would spare them. He may have been trying to show Moses how severe His anger was. God hated idolatry then, and He has not changed His mind. He still hates it today.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that God hates it when people worship false gods. He wants and deserves all our worship and love.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. The people of Israel were disloyal to God, turning quickly to idols.
2. God was angry with them because they turned to idols instead of to Him.
3. God hates idolatry.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS

For Telling the Lesson, find a picture of the people worshiping the golden calf.

For Helping to Remember, bring a picture of Jesus for each student, safety scissors (blunt tip), glue, cardboard, glitter or craft jewels, and yarn. Have a paper punch handy.

For the lesson activity, make a copy of the Word Search for each student.

BEGINNING THE LESSON

Marlene wanted to give her friend a present, but she did not know what she would like. She wondered and wondered about what to give her. Marlene liked green, and she was thinking of getting her friend a scarf.

One day her friend was looking at magazines at her house. She saw a green scarf. "Yuck! That is the ugliest thing!" her friend said. "I just cannot stand green, especially green scarves. They look so hideous!"

Marlene did not agree with her friend, but she was glad to know that her friend did not like green. She would get her a game instead—a game with no green in it.

It is good for us to know what God likes and what He does not like. God does not care what color we wear, but He does care very much about some things.

TELLING THE LESSON

God gave us His rules to show us the things He cares about. Do you remember His first two rules? (Teacher, let the children respond.) Yes, He wants us to worship Him alone and have no false gods. That is the first rule. Can you help me finish the second rule? We should not make or worship or bow down to any—. (Teacher, let the children finish by saying "idols.") God hates the worshiping of idols. He hates idolatry. He wants us to worship only Him. He wants all our love and worship, and He deserves it too.

While God was giving His rules to Moses high up on the mountain, the people grew tired of waiting for him. They went to Moses' brother, Aaron. They asked Aaron to make them idol gods to lead them. They said they did not know what had happened to Moses.

Aaron should have tried to convince them to wait. God had just brought them out of slavery in Egypt. He would surely help them. God had just proved to them that the idols people worship in Egypt had no power. But Aaron did not do that. He listened to the people and did what they asked.

If Aaron was to make an idol, he needed gold. The people had gold earrings. The Egyptians had given the gold to them as gifts when they left Egypt. Aaron told them to bring all their earrings, and he gathered up the gold.

Aaron melted the gold and used it to form an image of a calf. He took tools and carved it. He knew it was just a statue he had made from their earrings, but he said it was the gods who led them out of Egypt. What an awful lie!

In front of the calf Aaron built an altar where the people could put offerings. He told them that the next day would be a feast to the Lord. How awful! They could not honor the Lord by worshiping an idol!

The next morning, the people gave offerings to the idol. (Show picture.) They had a feast. They began to play, having fun around the idol.

God knew what was going on. He saw them worshiping the idol. He told Moses to go back down the mountain. He said the people had corrupted themselves, or made themselves dirty. Yes, they had committed a terrible sin. They had made themselves dirty in God's sight.

God told Moses exactly what had happened. He told Moses they had made a golden calf and were worshiping that idol, even saying that it was the god who led them out of Egypt!

God said the people were very stubborn. He was so angry that He wanted to destroy them all. We learn later on that Moses prayed for the people and God did not destroy them. God hates it when people worship idols. God's people want to please Him; so we should have nothing to do with idols.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE

God wants our worship and love. Maybe you do not have an idol that looks like a calf. But do you worship and love the Lord most of all? Anything that we love more than God can be an idol to us. Some people love television more than God. They do not come to worship because a favorite show is on. Others love sports more than God. They choose ball games instead of worshiping God.

Would you like to pray that God will help us love and worship Him most of all?

More and more people today are worshiping idols. They are turning away from God. Some people worship "Mother Earth" and sing songs to her. No matter what the name, God's people should remember that God hates it when people worship idols. He alone deserves our love. I want to worship and love Him. Do you?

HELPING TO REMEMBER

Instead of worshiping idols, God wants us to worship Him. So guide the children in making pictures of Jesus to remind them of this. Let the children cut a piece of

cardboard in any shape they want so that their picture will fit on it. Punch two holes in the top, and let the children string some yarn through it to make a hanger. Then let them glue the picture to the cardboard and decorate it with glue and glitter or craft jewels.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE

"(The people) have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them" (Exodus 32:8).

The people made a golden calf idol because they were not loving and worshiping God with all their hearts. They had sinful hearts that did not want to love God. Even while God was giving them the rule not to make idols, they were doing that very thing.

We all have that same problem—not loving God first, with all our hearts. That is sin, and that makes us sinners. That is why Jesus came to save us.

CONCLUSION

Guide the children to understand that they should trust God even when it seems He does not know their needs and is not responding.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love of us. Let us not give into pleasing others instead of seeking to please You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is "God's Great Promise." Moses went up onto Mount Sinai, where God made wonderful promises to Israel. Study Exodus 34:1-10.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY

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The Pulpit Commentary, Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Hrsg.), Bellingham, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc.

The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.

Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers

WORD SEARCH

"The People Disobeyed" (Exodus 32:1-10)

Find each of the following keywords from the lesson:

AARON
COMMANDED
EARRINGS
GREAT
NATION
QUICKLY
STIFF-NECKED
WORSHIPPED

BROUGHT
CORRUPTED
EGYPT
LORD
OFFERINGS
SACRIFICED
TURNED

CALF
DAUGHTERS
GOLDEN
MOSES
PEOPLE
SONS
WIVES

S A C R I F I C E D O O Y J C
D E D N A M M O C E B F L E A
D A S F A P R O X K M F K T L
H A P O E T R C T C D E C P F
S D U O N R I H W E P R I Y E
C G P G U S G O P N O I U G S
L L N P H U R P N F T N Q E T
E P T I O T I N N F M F C L U
N E K R R H E K V I Z S O C R
D G B L S R R R S T O R L R N
S N O R A A A E S S D Y D S E
Y E O A M K V E G O L D E N D
E W S U E I Q S G R E A T S B
A P D O W P J G P I U Y Q C E
C R W N M I G H Y E N I S R W

22 words were placed into the puzzle.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

"The People Disobeyed" (Exodus 32:1-10)

S A C R I F I C E D + O Y + C
D E D N A M M O C E + F L + A
D + S + A P + O + K + F K T L
+ A + O E T R + T C D E C P F
S + U O N R I H + E + R I Y +
+ G P G U S G O P N + I U G +
+ L N P H U + P N F + N Q E T
E + T I O T I + + F + F + L U
+ E + R R H E + + I + S O + R
D + B + S R + R S T + R + + N
S N O R A A A E S S D + + + E
+ E O + + + V E G O L D E N D
+ W S + + I + + G R E A T + +
+ + + O W + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + M + + + + + + + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

AARON (6, 11, W)
BROUGHT (3, 10, NE)
CALF (15, 1, S)
COMMANDED (9, 2, W)
CORRUPTED (9, 2, SW)
DAUGHTERS (1, 3, SE)
EARRINGS (8, 12, NW)
EGYPT (14, 7, N)
GOLDEN (9, 12, E)
GREAT (9, 13, E)
LORD (14, 8, SW)
MOSES (5, 15, NW)
NATION (4, 2, SE)
OFFERINGS (12, 1, S)
PEOPLE (6, 3, SW)
QUICKLY (13, 7, N)
SACRIFICED (1, 1, E)
SONS (3, 3, SE)
STIFF-NECKED (10, 11, N)
TURNED (15, 7, S)
WIVES (5, 14, NE)
WORSHIPPED (2, 13, NE)