

The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf Exodus 32:1-25





► Bible Point
Worship only God.


Key Verse
“You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will worship God by praying, singing, and playing games.

For some 5- and 6-year-olds, a strong attachment to a toy or even to a parent can still be a struggle. The absence of that person or item, even temporarily, can cause a lot of emotional distress. You can help kids begin to turn that attachment toward God, both by example and by teaching. Use this lesson to help kids realize that they can worship God in many different ways and they can worship him all the time.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcoming Song Sing or listen to songs to welcome everyone to church.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>God Provides Play a guessing game, and talk about how to make God more important in their lives.</p>	<p>Bible, clear tape Teacher Pack: “Things We Worship” cards</p> 	<p>Separate the “Things We Worship” cards.</p>
<p>3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Theo’s News Find out what gold jewelry has to do with the Bible.</p>	<p>Surprise Box (any box will do), Theo puppet, CD player, gold-colored jewelry Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Place the gold-colored jewelry in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Moo? Play an acting game as they discover what the Israelites did while Moses was on the mountain.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, “God Gives the Ten Commandments” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: God’s Number One! Draw pictures of ways to worship God, and discuss them with a friend.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers Teacher Pack: “Star” stickers</p> 	<p>Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Number-One Snacks Talk about their favorite snacks, and discuss how God can be first in their lives.</p>	<p>saltine crackers, cheese, raisins, apple slices, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Find Your Priorities Play a game of following instructions with distractions.</p>		
	<p>Center 4: Joyful Noisemakers Create trumpets, and worship God.</p>	<p>markers, scissors, variety of craft supplies, paper, tape, CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Roll paper into tubes and tape them. You’ll need 1 tube per child.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Playground, washable markers</p>	
	<p>“First Place” Prayer Form a line, and pray a prayer to remind them God’s in first place in their lives.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcoming Song Supplies


CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: “We’re So Glad”
(track 11), “Ten
Commandments”
(track 21)


1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song


 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You’ll Do

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it’s time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle. Lead kids in doing the motions and singing “We’re So Glad” (track 11 on the CD).

 **We’re so glad you’ve come**
Into God’s house today, (*shake hands with a friend*)
Into God’s house today, (*high five a friend*)
Into God’s house today. (*hug a friend*)
We’re so glad you’ve come
Into God’s house today. (*pat a friend on the back*)
We’ll have fun, fun, fun! (*jump for each use of the word “fun”*)
(Repeat 2 times.)

Say: I’m so glad you’re all here. Today we’ll learn that we can worship God with everything we do and that we ► **WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let’s sing a song about the rules God gave us so we can worship him with our actions.** Lead children in doing the motions and singing “Ten Commandments” (track 21 on the CD).

 **Our God gave us Ten Commandments,** (*point to heaven, and then hold up 10 fingers*)
Commandments, commandments. (*give a high 10 on “commandments”*)
Our God gave us Ten Commandments (*point to heaven, and then hold up 10 fingers*)
To show us his love. (*hug self*)

God’s rules help me and you (*point to self and then to a friend*)
To live like God says to. (*open hands like a book*)
Our God gave us Ten Commandments (*point to heaven, and then hold up 10 fingers*)
To show us his love. (*hug self*)

(Repeat.)

Say: Thanks for singing with me! It’s so good to be together at church today. We’re going to learn how important God is to us. There are lots of things for us to do and pay attention to, but we ► **WORSHIP ONLY GOD. We’ll hear what the Israelites**

were doing while Moses was receiving the 10 good rules from God on a mountain. Let's find out more!

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

God Provides

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have kids sit in a circle. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, Exodus 20:3, says, "You shall have no other gods before me." That means we can worship God and put him first in our lives, no matter what else is going on in our lives. Let's practice our simplified Key Verse together.** Lead kids in repeating the simplified Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Have kids form up to six groups. A group can be as small as two people. Have a willing child from each group come see you one at a time. Stick one of the "Things We Worship" cards to each child's forehead using clear tape, and have kids return to their groups. Make sure the kids don't see what's taped to their foreheads.

Say: **The person in your group with the card on his or her forehead is going to try to guess what's taped to his or her head. You can answer "yes" or "no," but you can't answer any questions with any other answer.** Allow time. After a minute, have kids look at the picture. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was easy or hard for you about guessing and answering?
- Do you think some people might love the things on these cards more than they love God? Why or why not?
- How can we make God more important in our lives?

Say: **God gives us lots of things we can enjoy, but he doesn't want anything to be more important to us than he is. Sometimes we can get distracted by things around us, and that can take our focus off God. No matter what, it's important that we give God the number-one place in our lives. We ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**



God Provides Supplies

Bible
clear tape
Teacher Pack
"Things We Worship"
cards

God Provides Easy Prep

Separate the "Things
We Worship" cards.



Theo's News Supplies

Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
CD player
gold-colored jewelry
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Theo's News Easy Prep

Place the gold-colored jewelry in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo's News

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it's time for Theo's News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! What can you tell us about the Surprise Box item today?

Theo: Well, it's another one of those things that I'm not really sure about. It seems pretty pointless to me, but I'm told people really like it.

Teacher: Hmm, that sure sounds interesting. Who wants to help open the Surprise Box? *(Invite a child to open the Surprise Box, and have the kids pass the gold jewelry around the circle so everyone can see it up close. Give kids time to guess what they'll learn from the Bible today.)*

Teacher: Friends, do you know anyone who has jewelry like this? *(Pause for kids to answer your question.)*

Teacher: Today's Bible passage tells about how the Israelites had jewelry, but they melted it to make one big gold statue. They forgot that God was going to take care of them.

Theo: What? That doesn't make sense. How could they forget God?

Teacher: We're going to find out more about what was going on. The people were waiting for Moses to come back from meeting with God, and they forgot that we

► **WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Theo: Sounds like an important lesson. Have fun, girls and boys!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Theo showed us jewelry. What are some things that you like a lot?**
- **Explain whether some things sometimes distract you from God.**
- **What does it mean to you to worship God all the time?**

Say: **There are lots of ways to worship God. Sometimes we just think of singing and praising in church, but we can praise God with everything we do. If we make sure to think about God first all the time, we can ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD with everything we do. Let's learn exactly what happened with Moses and the Israelites.**

Bible Time: Moo?

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 32:1-25, and show kids the words. Tell kids that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Moses was talking to God, and the people couldn't see him. Let's find out what the people did while Moses was talking to God up on the mountain. Listen carefully, and I'll pause the CD for you to act out the things we hear.**

Choose three willing children to play Aaron, Moses, and Joshua. The rest will be the Israelites. Kids can look to the "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster when "God" is speaking. When anyone on the CD asks whom the people should worship, lead children in responding ► **"WORSHIP ONLY GOD!"** Play "Worship Whom?" (track 12 on the CD). At each pause, have kids act out the things they just heard.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think of the Israelites choosing to worship a gold cow?**
- **What's one way you can worship God during your regular day?**

Say: **It's best for us to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. That means we love him more than anything else and spend time praying and listening to him. When we are helping our parents or playing with friends, we keep God first in our hearts and minds so we worship him with everything we do. The Israelites let other things distract them from God, but we can ask God to help us worship him only.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.



Bible Time: Moo? Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Worship Whom?" (track 12)
- "God Gives the Ten Commandments" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)



Center 1: God's Number One! Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers
Teacher Pack
"Star" stickers

Center 1: God's Number One! Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
6 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.

Center 2: Number-One Snacks Supplies

saltine crackers
cheese
raisins
apple slices
napkins
antibacterial gel
(optional)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

CENTER 1:

God's Number One!

What You'll Do

Say: **Moses was really sad when he saw the Israelites worshipping a golden cow. Moses had been talking with God, and he had kept God in first place in his life. Let's think about some ways to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Distribute the My Bible Playground pages, and give kids at least two star stickers each. Have them put the stickers on the My Bible Playground page. Then have kids draw a picture beside each star that shows one way they can worship God in everyday life. For example, kids might draw a picture of themselves helping a friend, sharing with a sibling, or playing with somebody that no one else plays with.

As kids work, say: **No matter what we're doing, we can worship God. We can use the words we say to worship God. We can use the things we do to worship God. When we obey or help others, we can do those things for God. We can pray anytime and ask God to help us keep him first in our lives.**

When kids are done drawing, have them share one of the things they drew with a partner. Then have kids draw one thing that might be in first place in their lives instead of God.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What can you do to make God number one in your life?**

Say: **Sometimes, things get in the way of our desire to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD, like they did for the Israelites. When that happens, we can pray and ask God to help us get things in the right order in our lives.**

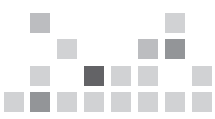
CENTER 2:

Number-One Snacks

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands. Then gather everyone around the table.

Say: **The Israelites had a hard time remembering to put God in the number-one place in their lives. We can have favorite versions of a lot of things. For example, we might have a favorite shirt or a favorite color. But above all those things, we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's choose our number-one snack out of the things I brought today.**



Set out the snack supplies. Have kids choose their number-one favorite and their second favorite from the items you brought. Help kids take a reasonable amount of their two favorite things on the table. Then have kids find a partner or small group (no more than four kids per group) of other people with a different number-one snack. Have kids sit with their groups.

Say: **Tell the people in your group why you prefer the snack you chose. Explain what you like about it, and then listen to the other people explain why they chose the snack they did.** Allow time.

Pray for the snack, and let kids eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's different about the things you each like about your snack?**
- **Explain whether you think we can all have God in the number-one place in our lives even though we all like different things.**
- **What are some ways God is number one above other "favorite" things in your life?**

Say: **Even though we all like different things, God can be number one in all of our lives. No matter how different we all are, we can all ask God to be first in our lives. Just like you chose your number-one snack, you can choose to put God first in every area of your life. The Israelites forgot to put God in the first place in their lives, and we can learn from their mistake. This week, let's remember that we**
▶ **WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

■ CENTER 3:

Find Your Priorities

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Sometimes in life, it can be tough to know how to put God first. Let's play a game about finding out what's first.**

Carefully clear obstacles from a large space to play this game. Say: **Let's form two groups. Each group will form a line facing the other across the room.** The goal of the game is to have children from one group find their way back to their original group with their eyes closed. Instruct one child at a time to step forward, spin four or five times, and then close his or her eyes.

When the child stops spinning and begins to walk, say: **If you're not from** (child's name) **'s original group, call out "Worship," while the other group responds "only God."** (Child's name) **will try to find his or her way back to the group saying "only God."** Alternate back and forth between the groups. Continue as time allows.





Center 4: Joyful Noisemakers Supplies

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markers
scissors
variety of craft supplies
paper
tape
CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "We Will Worship"
(track 13)

Center 4: Joyful Noisemakers Easy Prep

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Roll paper into tubes
and tape them. You'll
need 1 tube per child.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did your friends help you in the game?
- How did Moses help the people return to worshipping only God?
- What can help you as you try to ► **WORSHIP ONLY GOD?**

Say: **The Israelites made a mistake. They didn't keep their focus on worshipping only God. Moses helped them remember to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD, just as we can help each other remember, too. In our game, we had to listen for the right voices saying the right things. In life, we can listen to our parents, pastors, or trusted Christian leaders to help us know how to keep our focus on God.**

■ **CENTER 4:**

Joyful Noisemakers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God loves us, and we want to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD in all situations. When we worship God, it makes him happy and it's best for us, too. Let's make some trumpets and worship God.**

Set out supplies. Give each child a paper tube you prepared beforehand, and tell kids to decorate their tubes using the markers and other supplies you set out. Encourage kids to make their tubes colorful, drawing shapes and patterns all along and around the tubes.

When children are finished decorating, help them cut four slits in one end of their paper tube. The cuts should be about 3 inches long and evenly spaced. Gently bend the cut pieces back so the tube looks like a horn. Say: **Put your lips into the unbent end and make a loud trumpet sound with your voice. The tone will sound like a horn.**

Play "We Will Worship" (track 13 on the CD), and encourage kids to make trumpet noises to go with the music. Make a parade around the room as kids worship God.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What were you thinking as you worshipped God like this?
- Tell about a time you worshipped God when you weren't at church.
- What can you do to worship God in the things you do?

Say: **It was fun to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD by blowing our horns. We can worship God in lots of ways, such as when we pray, when we sing with friends, when we laugh and play, and other times, too. Instead of getting distracted like the Israelites, we can encourage each other to put God first in everything we do.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives throughout the week. Use this challenge to encourage your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Today we learned that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. I'd like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to practice worshipping God.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Sing a praise song to God with your family as you ride in your car together.**
2. **Worship God as you help your mom or dad with the dishes this week. You might sing, say kind things to the other person, or tell how great God is while you work.**
3. **Before going to bed at night, pray and thank God for everything God has done for you.**

Say: **If you want to sing a song, circle choice number 1. If you want to wash dishes, circle choice number 2. If you want to pray before bed, circle choice number 3.**

Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

“First Place” Prayer

What You'll Do

Have kids stand in a line behind you. Lead kids in praying, having them repeat after you:

Dear God,

We want you to be first in our lives.

This week, help me put you first in my life instead of anything else.

I want to worship you only!



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground
washable markers



Have the child at the front of the line say “In Jesus’ name, amen” and then move to the back of the line. The next person in line will then say “In Jesus’ name, amen” and move to the back of the line. Repeat until everyone has said “In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.