

Old Testament

The Golden Cow

Exodus 32-34

Younger Memory Verse If you believe...then you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Older Memory Verse If you say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and if you believe in your heart that God raised Christ from death, then you will be saved. Romans 10:9

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time Have you ever tried to cover up a mistake by lying to someone? Let's see what happens when Aaron tries to cover up a mistake.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we learned that Moses was up on a mountain getting the 10 commandments (rules) from God. Moses was gone for a long time, so the people began to get upset and worried about him. They wanted a leader. They wanted someone who would tell them what to do and get them to a better place (than the desert). The people must have mistakenly thought that Moses died and God wasn't around any more.

Aaron, Moses' brother, listened to their requests. He asked them to gather all their gold jewelry and give it to him. When he received the jewelry, he melted the gold and made a golden cow out of it. Believe it or not, he told the people that this cow was the one that could help lead them.

The people listened to Aaron and believed him. They forgot about all the things that God did for them. They had a special party to celebrate the cow. Before long, they were doing many wrong things.

Where was Moses? He was with God on the mountain. God saw all that was happening. He told Moses to go down and stop the people from doing wrong.

When Moses came down the mountain, he could not believe his eyes. The people were worshiping a COW instead of God. He was so upset that he threw down the 10 commandment stones and they broke.

Lesson Goals

See why we should not lie or deceive others
Explain how God continues to love us when we do wrong
Share why honesty is the best thing to do

Then Moses asked his brother, Aaron, why he let the people do this. Aaron told Moses that the people came to him wanting something to worship. Then he told a lie. He told Moses that he threw the jewelry into the fire and it came out as a golden cow. Moses knew that his brother had done wrong and so had the people.

He asked all the people who wanted to follow the Real God to come with him. People came, but others stayed behind. The people who did not follow were killed.

Moses talked to God and asked forgiveness for the wrong things that happened. God erased the sin and told them it was time to move to another place. Moses and the people listened and obeyed.

Later, Moses went back up to the mountain and carved out the 10 commandments on two new tablets for the people.

Do you know what was interesting about the lesson today? The very commandments that God wanted the people to keep, they were breaking. They were to worship only God. They were not to lie or cheat. Can you imagine how sad God was that His people turned their backs on Him. Remember that He had just done an amazing miracle. God helped His people escape slavery AND He parted the Red sea. Why do you think the people so quickly forgot about God? Do you think anyone tried to stand up for God or do you think they were scared?

Just like God forgave the people's sin, He can forgive your mistakes too and clean out your heart. You must come to Him with the right attitude and heart, ready to tell Him you are sorry for your wrongs. If you believe in Him, He will wash away your wrongs and ask you to start doing right.

If you want to believe in Him, tell Him that you believe and trust Him and want Him to come into your life. God promises to come into your life and help you. He also promises to take you to Heaven one day.

Learning Activities

Help the kids learn lessons on honesty and standing up for what you believe.

Memory Verse Activities

Try erasing one word at a time to help the kids remember this verse. Help them know what it means to "be saved."

Prayer Time

God sees us and knows what we are doing all the time. Pray and ask God to help us live for Him and do right things this week.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Munch on snacks and enjoy the kids' company.

Planning for May 23rd
Exploring Canaan
Numbers 13

Preschool Lesson
For
The Golden Cow

Last week we learned that Moses was up on a mountain getting the 10 rules from God. Moses was gone for a long time, so the people began to get upset and worried about him. They wanted a leader. They wanted someone who would tell them what to do and get them to a better place (than the desert).

Aaron, Moses' brother, listened to their whining. He asked them to gather all their gold jewelry and give it to him. When he got the jewelry, he melted the gold and made a golden cow out of it. Believe it or not, he told the people that this cow was the one that could help lead them.

The people listened to Aaron and believed him. They forgot about all the things that God did for them. They had a special party to celebrate the cow. Before long, they were doing many wrong things.

Where was Moses? He was with God on the mountain. God saw all that was happening. He told Moses to go down and stop the people from doing wrong.

When Moses came down the mountain, he could not believe his eyes. The people were worshiping a COW instead of God. He was so upset that he threw down the stone tablets and they broke.

Then Moses asked his brother, Aaron, why he let the people do this. Aaron told Moses that the people came to him wanting something to worship. Then he told a lie. He told Moses that he threw the jewelry into the fire and it came out as a golden cow. Moses knew that his brother had done wrong and so had the people.

Moses talked to God and asked forgiveness for the wrong things that happened. God erased the sin and told them it was time to move to another place. Moses and the people listened and obeyed.

Later, Moses went back up to the mountain and carved out the 10 commandments on two new tablets for the people.

God wants us to obey and love Him. He wants us to love God more than anything else.

Sing Songs thanking God for loving us.

Pray and thank God for caring for us.

Hands-On Activities
For
The Golden Calf

As an object lesson, bring an old shoe. Talk about how it helps protect your feet from rocks and glass. Share how the commandments that God gave were to protect His people from harm.

Bring a real flower and a fake (silk) flower. Let the kids compare the differences. Share how beautiful and fragrant the real rose is. Now share how honesty is so much better than telling a lie. It is like comparing a real flower to a fake one.

To illustrate the effects of lying, bring confetti or little hole punches from paper. Go outside. When a gust of wind comes, throw the confetti into the air. Note how it scatters everywhere. Ask the kids if they can gather up ALL the paper. Obviously not. Share how once a lie is told, it is hard to reclaim it. Explain that it is better to tell the truth and even pay the consequences than tell a lie and suffer the guilt.

Isn't it wonderful that God loves us even when we do wrong! God loved His people even when they turned their backs on Him. More than anything, God wants us to come to Him and spend time with Him. He promises to help us and clean out all our wrongs if we tell Him about them.

1 John 1:9 is a great verse to help the kids see how God will forgive them if they come to Him and share their mistakes. Talk about how God can erase our wrongs and forgive us.
