

# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2009

# Through the Old Testament in Two Years

## Part One



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## The Golden Calf

Last week we learned how God gives us rules to protect us. Like the different signs in our lives, God’s rules are to help us. God wants us to love and obey Him. He wants us to do right things and live good lives.

Exodus 32-34

### Read the Bible

**READ: Exodus 32:1- 11 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Memory Verse:

Worship the Lord your God.  
He is the only one  
you should serve.  
**(Luke 4:8 NIV)**

### Begin With Prayer

Moses was up on a mountain getting the Ten 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. (Exodus 32:1)

### Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that the people became impatient.
2. Learn that Aaron led the people to sin.
3. Understand that God told Moses to stop the people.
4. Recognize that God punished Israel.

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 calf out of it. Believe it or not, he told the people that this calf was the one that could help lead them. (Exodus 32:2-4)

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 calf. Before long, they were doing many wrong things. (Exodus 32:5)

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. (Exodus 32:6-10)

When Moses came down the mountain, he could not believe his eyes. The people were worshipping a CALF instead of God. He was so upset that he threw down the Ten Commandment stones and they broke. (Exodus 32:11-19)

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 Golden Calf — Bible Facts

1. Moses was on the mountain talking to God.
2. The people got tired of waiting.
3. Aaron asked them to bring their gold.
4. Aaron made the golden calf.

the fire and it came out as a golden calf. Moses knew that his brother had done wrong and so had the people. (Exodus 32:20-24)

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. (Exodus 32:25-29)

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. (Exodus 32:30-35)

Later, Moses went back up to the mountain and carved out the Ten Commandments on two new tablets for the people. (Exodus 34:27-28)

Do you know what was interesting about the lesson today? The people were breaking the very commandments that God wanted the people to keep, they were breaking. They were to worship only God. 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?

### Review

1. **Where was Moses?** (on a mountain talking to God)
2. **What happened?** (the people got tired of waiting)
3. **What did Aaron do?** (asked them to bring their gold)
4. **What did Aaron do next?** (made a golden calf)

### Do you know Jesus?

Just like God forgave the people's sin, He can forgive your mistakes, too, and clean out your heart. (1 John 1:9) 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. (Romans 10:9-10)

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to make a way for us to get to heaven.
3. Ask God to help you obey His commandments.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to obey God's commands.

### Application

The people of Israel became impatient as Moses was up on the mountain. Aaron led the people to sin. Israel was quick to sin against God. God told Moses to stop the people. Moses came down from the mountain and stopped the people from their sin. But God still punished Israel for their sin. God wants us to obey Him. He wants us to worship only Him.

### Planning for the next week:

Exploring Canaan — Numbers 13

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Exodus 32:1-11 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

Teachers: Use invisible ink to write 1 John 1:9. Talk about how God will forgive us if we ask Him.

Last week we learned that Moses was up on a mountain getting the Ten Commandments 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 calf out of it. Believe it or not, he told the people that this calf 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 calf. 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 CALF 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 calf. 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 Ten 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.

### Prayer Time

- 1. Take a moment to listen to God.**
- 2. Thank God for sending Jesus to make a way for us to get to heaven.**
- 3. Ask God to help you obey His commandments.**

### Memory verse for younger children:

Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve. Luke 4:8

# Learning Activities

•**Memory verse activity** — Use invisible ink to write the Bible verse. 1 John 1:9 is also 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 will erase our wrongs and forgive us if we ask Him.

•**Test your memory** — Use glitter and glue to make a golden calf. Use it and coloring pages to illustrate the story.

•**Taste activity** — Bring lemon juice or pickle juice and dilute it with water. Let the children taste it. Tell them sin may look right but it is not.

Give the children animal crackers. Use icing and decorate them with yellow colored sprinkles or sugar crystals..

•**Think about it** — After God delivered Israel from slavery (plagues, parting the Red Sea, mighty power), Israel sinned against God by worshipping the golden calf. Talk about why worshipping idols is wrong. Talk about what idols people may have in their lives (popularity, clothes, etc.)

To illustrate the effects of lying, bring confetti or little hole punches from paper. 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.

When Moses asked Aaron what was happening, Aaron did not take responsibility for his sin. Talk about the importance of admitting sin, repenting of our sin, and asking God for forgiveness.

Talk about worship. Discuss ways that we worship God (music, prayer, reading, speaking, listening, etc.)

•**Touch activity** — Bring rocks and make a path for the kids to walk on the rocks shoes on and then with shoes off. Talk about how shoes help protect your feet from rocks. Share how the commandments that God gave were to protect His people from harm.

•**Bring a real rose and a fake (silk) rose.** 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.

•**Run and play** — Moses was up on the mountain for 40 days. Divide the kids in four groups. Have the run relay races. Each group must run 10 times in order to run 40 times. Have someone in the group count the number of times their group members have run. Make sure it is a short distance.

•**Listen** — As the children take time for silence, remind them that God wants us to worship Him only.

•**Sing** — Sing “Obedience,” “Trust and Obey,” “Majesty,” “Shout to the Lord,” or another song related to the story.

•**For preschoolers,** sing “One little, two little, three little commandments etc.” to the tune of “One little, two little, three little Indians,”

•**Reach out** — During class, pray for kids that did not come today. Ask the children to go with you to deliver the class handout and the Bible verse written with the invisible ink. Read the Bible to the child.

## Learning Activities

Use the acrostic below to talk about ways we worship God.

W

O

R

S

H

I

P

Memory Verse

Worship  
the Lord  
your God.  
He is the  
only one you  
should serve.  
Luke 4:8

## Word Puzzle

Trace the letters.

God

punished

Israel



## Word Search

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

MOUNTAIN

AARON

ISRAEL

GOLD

CALF

WORSHIPPED

EGYPT

STOPPED

PUNISHED

# Word Search

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

MOUNTAIN

AARON

ISRAEL

GOLD

CALF

WORSHIPPED

EGYPT

STOPPED

PUNISHED

## Word Search

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

AARON

GOLD

CALF

SINNED

STOPPED

PUNISHED

## Word Search

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

AARON

GOLD

CALF

SINNED

STOPPED

PUNISHED

# Anagram

PWOIHSR

RLDO

YRUO GDO

SEEVr

LOYN

MHI

SSMOE

NAROA

LIESRA

# Anagram

WORSHIP

LORD

YOUR GOD

SERVE

ONLY

HIM

MOSES

AARON

ISRAEL