

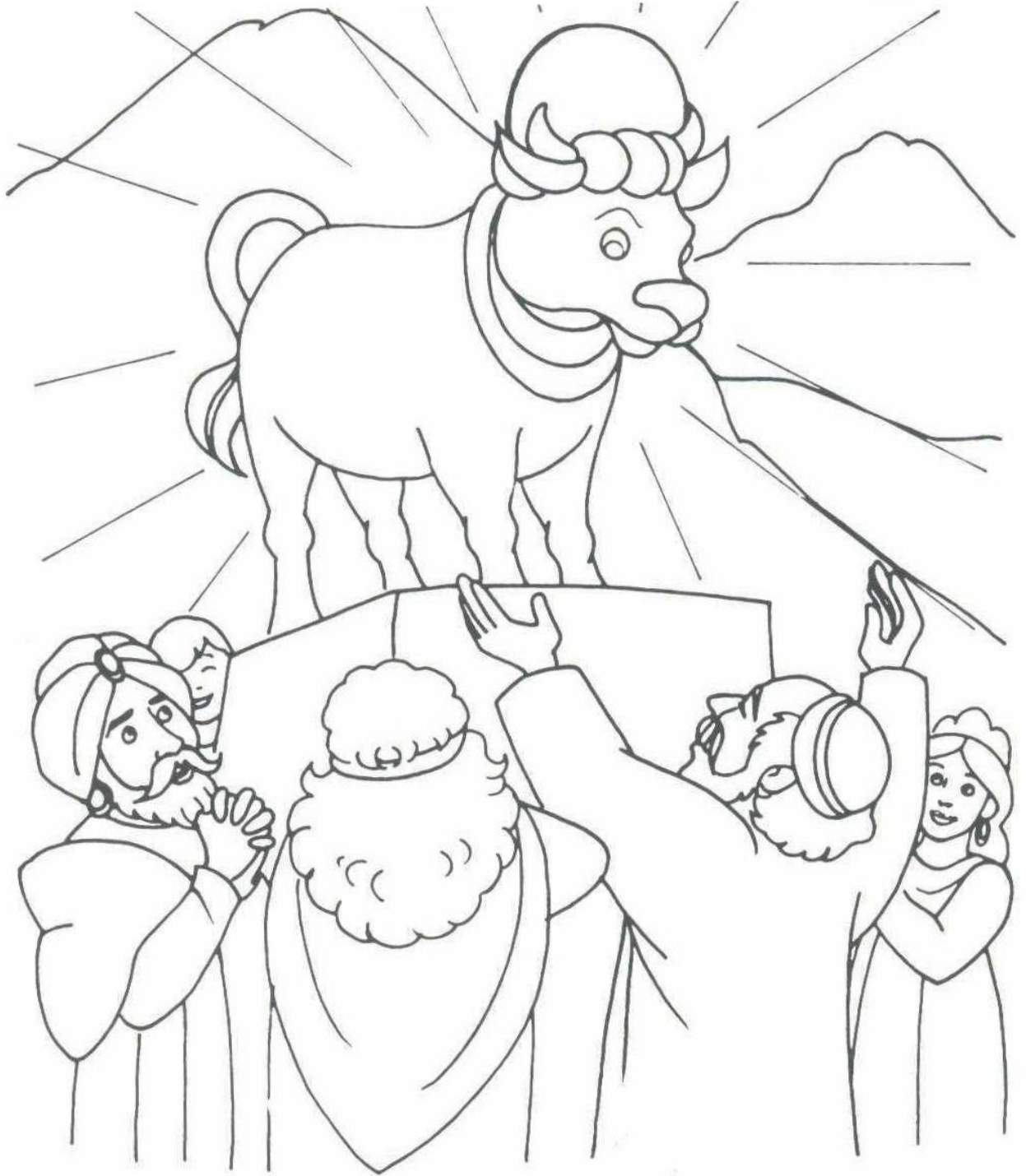
Story Time: Read the story to the children:
Lesson 44: THE GOLDEN CALF
Exodus 32

After the people saw that Moses had been on the mountain for a long time, they went to Aaron and said, "Make us an image of a god who will lead and protect us. Moses brought us out of Egypt, but nobody knows what has happened to him." Aaron told them, "Bring me the gold earrings that your wives and sons and daughters are wearing." Everybody took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron, then he melted them and made an idol in the shape of a young bull. All the people said to one another, "This is the god who brought us out of Egypt!" When Aaron saw what was happening, he built an altar in front of the idol and said, "Tomorrow we will celebrate in honor of the LORD." The people got up early the next morning and killed some animals to be used for sacrifices and killed others to be eaten. Then everyone ate and drank so much that they began to act like wild people! The LORD said to Moses: Hurry back down! Those people you led out of Egypt are acting like fools. They have already stopped obeying me and have made themselves an idol in the shape of a young bull. They have bowed down to it, offered sacrifices, and said that it is the god who brought them out of Egypt. Moses, I have seen how stubborn these people are, and I'm angry enough to destroy them, so don't try to stop me. But I will make YOUR descendants into a great nation. Moses tried to get the LORD God to change his mind. He said to the Lord, "Our LORD, you used your mighty power to bring these people out of Egypt. Now don't become angry and destroy them. If you do, the Egyptians will say that you brought your people out here into the mountains just to get rid of them. Please don't be angry with your people. Don't destroy them! Remember the serious promise you made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You promised that someday they would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky and that you would give them land."

So even though the LORD had threatened to destroy the people, He changed His mind and let them live. Moses went back down the mountain with the two stone tablets on which God had written all of His laws with His own hand, and He had used both sides of the stones. When Joshua heard the noisy shouts of the people, he said to Moses, "A battle must be going on down in the camp." But Moses replied, "It doesn't sound like they are shouting because they have won or lost a battle. They are singing like wild people!" As Moses got closer to the

camp, he saw the idol, and he also saw the people dancing around. This made him so angry that he threw down the stone tablets and broke them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. He melted the idol the people had made, and he ground it into powder. He scattered it in their water and made them drink it. Moses asked Aaron, "What did these people do to harm you? Why did you make them sin in this terrible way?" Aaron answered: Don't be angry with me. You know as well as I do that they really want to do evil. They even told me, "That man Moses led us out of Egypt, but now we don't know what has happened to him. Make us a god to lead us." Then I asked them to bring me their gold earrings. They took them off and gave them to me. I threw the gold into a fire, and out came this bull. Moses knew that the people were out of control and that it was Aaron's fault. And now they had made fools of themselves in front of their enemies. So Moses stood at the gate of the camp and shouted, "Everyone who is on the LORD's side come over here!" Then the men of the tribe of Levi gathered around Moses, and he said to them, "The LORD God of Israel commands you to put on your swords and go through the camp, killing your relatives, your friends, and your neighbors." The men of the Levi tribe followed his orders, and that day they killed about three thousand men. Moses said to them, "You obeyed the LORD and did what was right, and so you will serve as his priests for the people of Israel. It was hard for you to kill your own sons and brothers, but the LORD has blessed you and made you his priests today." The next day Moses told the people, "This is a terrible thing you have done. But I will go back to the LORD to see if I can do something to keep this sin from being held against you." Moses returned to the LORD and said, "The people have committed a terrible sin. They have made a gold idol to be their god. But I beg you to forgive them. If you don't, please wipe my name out of your book." The LORD replied, "I will wipe out of my book the name of everyone who has sinned against me. Now take my people to the place I told you about, and my angel will lead you. But when the time comes, I will punish them for this sin." So the LORD punished the people of Israel with a terrible disease for talking Aaron into making the gold idol.

44. THE GOLDEN CALF (EXODUS 32)



The Golden Calf

While Moses was away, his brother Aaron made a golden statue of a calf. The people forgot about God and worshiped the calf.

44. THE GOLDEN CALF

(EXODUS 32)

MEMORY VERSE:

“For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ MATTHEW 4:10

TRUE OR FALSE

1. The people went up on the mountain with Moses.
TRUE or FALSE
2. Aaron decided all by himself to make a golden idol shaped like a calf.
TRUE or FALSE
3. Aaron used the gold earrings that everyone had to make the calf.
TRUE or FALSE
4. Joshua told Moses that it sounded like there was a battle going on down in the camp. TRUE or FALSE
5. The people were eating, drinking and dancing around like wild people.
TRUE or FALSE

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Was Moses angry that the people were acting so wildly?
2. What did he do with the commandments that the Lord had written on the stone tablets after he found the people sinning?
3. Did Moses yell out ‘Everyone that is on the LORD’s side come over here by me!’?
4. Who came over to the LORD’s side with Moses? Was it the Levites?
5. What did the LORD do to the other people for sinning so badly?

44. Craft/Activity

Worship Only God

Talk about worship with your class. Talk about how some countries use bowing as a respectful greeting. Then bow reverently to one of the children and ask how it feels; have children practice bowing to one another and talk about it afterward. Some bowing seems different than other bowing.

Sometimes you can tell if a person thinks it is silly to bow, or if they just do not want to bow, or maybe they really like you, and you can tell by their bow. God had done so much for the Israelites. How sad it must have been as God observed His people making a little cow and then bowing down to the cow.

Thank The Giver

Bring a special box containing small prizes or pieces of candy to class. Give out the small prizes, being sure to show the box in the middle of the circle while they enjoy their prizes. Ask them if they think they should thank the box for the prizes or you who brought them.

The golden calf, like the box, was just a thing that could be made; but God was the one who had brought the Israelites out of slavery with many miracles.

Standing In The Gap

Moses intercedes for the evil people; he was even willing to have his name blotted out of God's book. Write down some names of people who need to be saved and pray for them as a class. Perhaps the class can pray for them every week for the next few weeks.

PRAYER Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to follow the Lord and not the world and its idols. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

44. THE GOLDEN CALF

Color the calf a golden color.

