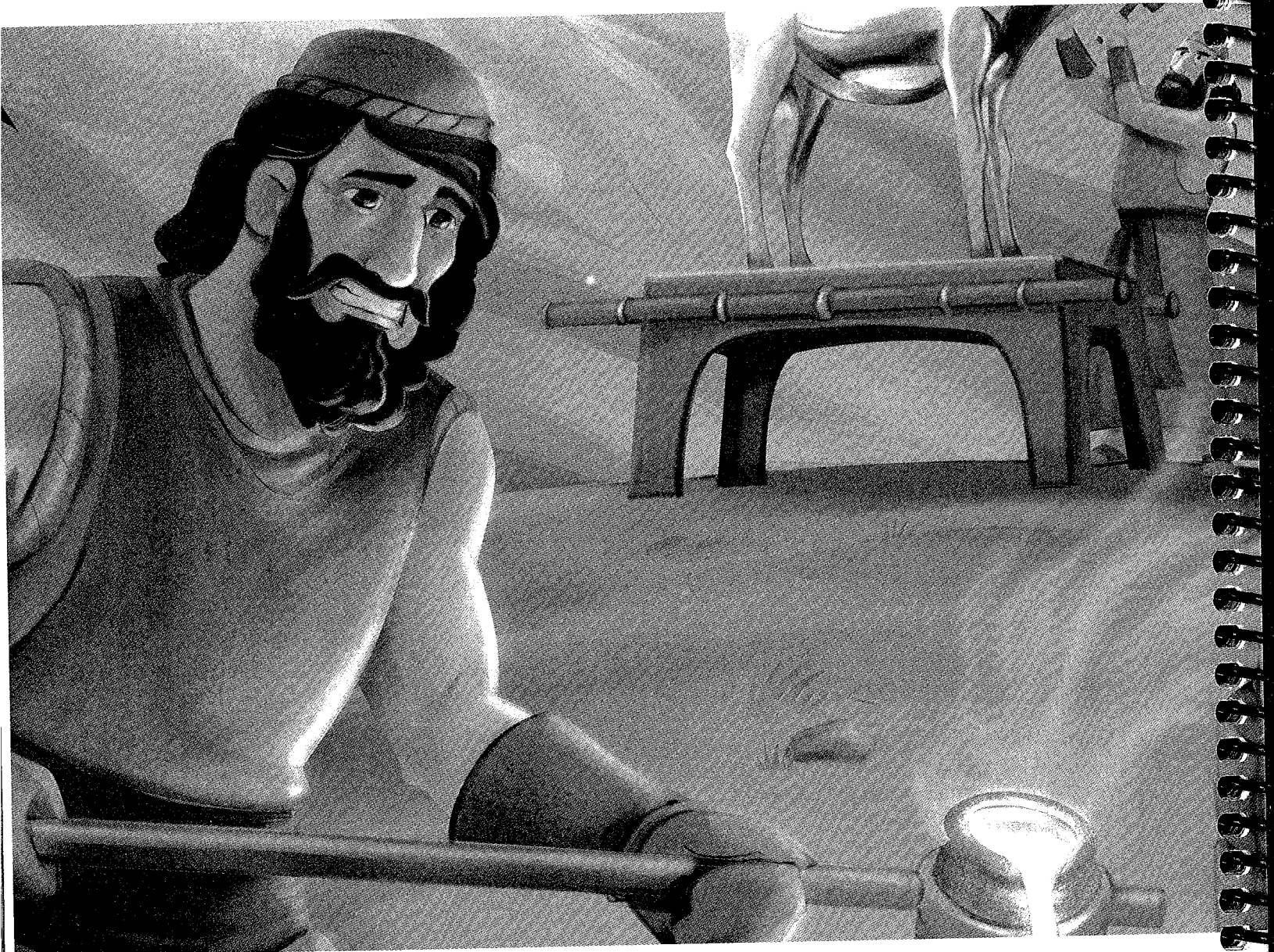


# THE GOLDEN CALF

EXODUS 32; 34



**KEY PASSAGE:** 1 Samuel 2:2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why do we need to be saved? People are sinful and cannot save themselves.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** The people chose to worship a golden calf instead of God, and God's anger burned against them. Moses interceded so that God would forgive them. We are all sinners who deserve the wrath of God, but Jesus interceded for us through His life, death, and resurrection so we can be saved!

**STORY POINT:** The Israelites sinned by making and worshiping a golden calf.



## PREPARE

### PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## LEADER Bible Study

Exodus 32's account of the golden calf showcases the sinful idolatry of people in contrast with the merciful nature of God. In the 40 days it took Moses to return from Mount Sinai, the people had grown impatient. They urged Aaron to join in their mission to find a new object they deemed worthy of worship and devotion: a golden calf.

What led God's people to fall prey to this idolatry? How does Moses' leadership foreshadow Christ's intercession for God's people?

An idol is anything we worship in the place of God. Unfortunately, the Israelites wrongly believed they needed a new god to go before them since Moses' absence left them doubting if he would return and worried about who would lead them. How ironic it was that they sought to dethrone God while claiming to throw a festival in His honor (Exodus 32:5). Their impatient uncertainty led them to replace God's sovereign plans and rightful worship with this golden god of their own creation.

As God's anger grew against the Israelites' sin, Moses reminded the Lord of all He had done for His people since Egypt and urged Him to relent from His planned destruction. In remembering His covenant with Abraham from long ago, and upon Moses' urging, God did not completely destroy His people. God was faithful to uphold His covenant promises despite the unfaithfulness of His people. He instructed Moses to create two new stone tablets on which God Himself would engrave the Ten Commandments. Moses pleaded for the Lord to journey with His people, forgive them, and set them apart as His own nation and possession.

Moses was a sinful man, so his intercession for God's people was not enough to bring everlasting forgiveness. A greater Intercessor would be needed to offer a greater sacrifice to atone for sin. We see the mercies of God through the intercession of Christ's life, death, and resurrection so that all who trust in Him will be saved. Help boys and girls see the greatness of God's mercy through the faithful mediation of Moses and ultimately, Jesus.



### PREPARE

#### THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



### WELCOME

#### 10-15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



### LEARN

#### 25-30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



### LOVE

#### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



### LIVE

#### 15-20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel