

Connect Group Discussion Guide – 3/5/2023

Exodus 32 The Golden Calf

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

Audio Only: On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

Opening discussion: When the Israelites face bitter water at Marah (Ex.15), God describes Himself as the LORD who heals you. Share a time you've seen God heal.

Highlights

- **Exodus 15:25-26** serves as the foundation for the Mosaic Covenant (see last week).
 - Kingdom of Priests – God's representatives to the people
- **Exodus 32:1-2** The people were impatient and uncommitted. Not that long ago they received the covenant and they heard Him speak the 10 commandments. **Think about a time you didn't wait on God and His timing. How did that turn out.**
- **Exodus 32:3-4** Aaron cast (intentionally fashioned) the calf to be one of the people's gods. **What gods are you chasing.**
- **Exodus 32:5-6** They held a festival to Yahweh. They worshipped Him and then went and did whatever they wanted for the rest of today. **What about you? What about Mon-Sat?**
- **Exodus 32:7-8** God calls the people Moses's people. God knows exactly what they said. God is omnipresent; everywhere at the same time. **What does God know you've said or done even though you may have thought at the time you were hiding it from Him?**
- **Exodus 32:9-10** God says, you know what Moses? Forget about the covenant with these people. I'll start over with you. Maybe this was a test for Moses.
- **Exodus 32:11-14** Moses calls the people God's people. He's handing them back to Him. Moses is more concerned about honoring the name of God, than he is himself (or the people). But he reminds God, you made a covenant.
 - **God relented.** We cannot change God's mind, but we're part of His plan. God wants to destroy the people, but chooses not to. It was his plan all along.
- **Exodus 32:15-16** These were God's laws written on the stone by God himself. This was all about God and not about Moses (they were not man written law).
- **Exodus 32:19-20** Moses' anger burned. When he made the people drink the water with the ground up gold, he took their sin that was on the outside, and made them realize it's inside.
- **Exodus 32:22-24** Aaron says "it's not my fault, it's God's. He was taking too much time with you up on that mountain. He should have sent you down sooner. **Have you ever asked God, why didn't you fix that for me? Why did you let that happen? What have you learned about that time, looking back on it?**
- **Exodus 32:25-26** Only the Levites are still chasing after the LORD. Remember the covenant (Kingdom of Priests and a Holy nation)? The people have given up on it already. **When things don't go your way, do you give up on God?**
- **Exodus 32:27-29** The Levites go through the crowd and kill 3000 people. They are saying, God, You are more important to us than the people are. Moses responds, "You have been set apart for the LORD today." **If YOU say "yes" to the LORD, have been too. What does that look like for you?**
- **Exodus 32:30** Atonement – act on behalf of other people. The Hebrew word for atonement (kaphar) also means pitch (think Noah's ark or Moses's basket). Atonement seals us to keep sin out and holiness in. Moses is saying I can be the pitch that seals the covenant.

- **Exodus 32:31-34** Moses offer to sacrifice himself in place of the people. This is called substitutionary atonement. God said, thanks, but it's not you. There's one coming who will do this. Of course, this points to Jesus. **See 1 John 2:1-2**
- **Exodus 32:35** God sends a plague to the Israelites. Remember at Marah he said, IF you listen, IF you do what is right in His eyes, IF you pay attention to His commands, IF you keep his decrees, He will not do to you what He did to the Egyptians. Yet, here we are.
- **Exodus 33:12-14** God tells Moses His Presence will go with him and give him rest. Moses says, if you're not, don't send me. Moses is saying, I want to be only where you are, God. **Can you say the same thing?**

How do we live differently because of what we've learned?

- 1. Ask the LORD to go with you and give you rest. Actually say it out loud.**
- 2. What does your Monday-Saturday look like? (That's where you're going to have God go with you.)**
- 3. Today is the day of salvation. Say yes to Jesus. Say yes and you are set apart for the LORD, today!**

Prayer