



K-1st Lesson

Review

- Refer to the Lesson 57 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, we learned about some special laws that God gave Moses to teach the people how to treat God and each other. What are those laws called? *The Ten Commandments.*

Right. The first four commandments teach how to worship God. Let's see if you remember what those are. Point to each picture on the Flip Chart and review the first four commandments.

Good job! Now let's see if you can name the next six commands about how to treat others. Review the remaining commands from the Flip Chart.

After God spoke to the Israelites and told them to keep the Ten Commandments, he called Moses to come up to the top of Mount Sinai. God was going to explain some other laws the Israelites needed to know, and God was going to write down the Ten Commandments on stone tablets with his own finger so the people could keep these commands with them.

The Israelites Sin

So, Moses took Joshua with him and climbed up the mountain. While Joshua waited partway, Moses continued up, up, up to the top of the mountain. Moses stayed up there talking with God for 40 days! That's a long time! So the Israelites started wondering, "What's happened to Moses?" "Is he dead?" "Is he ever going to come back?" They couldn't go looking for him, since God had said they were not allowed on the mountain.

Exodus 32:1

- Let's find out what the Israelites did in Exodus 32:1. Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.

- Who did the Israelites say brought them out of the land of Egypt? *Moses.*
- Was that true? Was it Moses who caused the ten plagues in Egypt and split the Red Sea so they could cross? *No.*
- Who really rescued them from Pharaoh in Egypt? *God did!*

That's right. Moses led the people, but it was God who rescued them with all the miracles. But the Israelites already forgot about God.

- What did the Israelites tell Aaron to do? What did they want him to make? *Make us gods who shall go before us.*

Uh oh! They were pretty mixed up. First, they said Moses did things only God could do, and now they wanted Aaron to make an idol to lead them instead of God.

- Do you think that pleased God? *No!*
- Refer to the Lesson 57 Flip Chart. Look at the Ten Commandments again. The people already forgot some of these. What was number one? *Put God first.*
- And what was number two? *Worship only God. Do not make idols.*

Right. But they told Aaron to make an idol for them to worship.

Remember, Aaron was Moses' brother, who had helped Moses speak to Pharaoh and lead the people, so he should have known this was very wrong.

Exodus 32:2-4

Let's find out what Aaron did. Read Exodus 32:2-4. Stop before the second sentence in verse 4.

- What did Aaron ask the people to give him? *Rings of gold.*
- And the people did what he asked. They took off their gold rings and brought them to Aaron.
- Show the Lesson Flip Chart. What did Aaron make with this gold? *A golden calf.*
- What is a calf? *A young cow or bull.*
- Young bulls are strong, and the people wanted to worship a strong god. But this was just a statue made out of gold. Could it do anything for them? *No!*

Aaron just made it out of gold earrings! How could it lead the people? This was all wrong. But the people thought it was great. Listen to what they said about the golden calf. Read the last part of verse 4. *These are your gods, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!*

- Let's think about what's happening here. What are the people doing? *Making and worshipping an idol. Saying the idol—not God—brought them out of Egypt.*

Wow! The Israelites already broke the first two commandments God told them to follow! They weren't worshipping God—they were worshipping a statue of a cow!

- Would this idol help them? What can a statue do? *Allow discussion.*

Statues can't do anything, can they? Someone has to make them out of stone or clay or metal. But that's all they are.

Let's play a game called "Statues." Follow the instructions for the Statues Game then continue with the lesson.

Statues can't do anything except stand there. Worshipping a statue or idol is wrong. And it doesn't make any sense. They don't have any power to do anything. But God is omnipotent. He CAN do anything, and we should worship only him.

It was foolish of the Israelites to think that something Aaron made out of their gold had the power to save them from Pharaoh and part the Red Sea, but that's what they said. They ate and drank and celebrated their new false god. They were out of control! They were mixing worship of the true God with idol worship. This was a terrible sin.

Meanwhile, up on Mount Sinai, God knew what the people were doing down below. And he told Moses he was going to destroy the Israelites! They were stubborn and disobedient and deserved to be punished for their sin.

But Moses loved the Israelite people, so he prayed for mercy. This was an important prayer because God was ready to wipe them out! But God listened to Moses and did not destroy the Israelites even though he would have been just to punish them this way. But God showed mercy instead.

Moses Comes Back

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Moses' prayer saved the Israelites from death, but they were still in big trouble! Moses hurried down the mountain with the two stone tablets in his hand.

- Who remembers what God wrote on those stone tablets? *The Ten Commandments.*

When Moses got back to the camp and saw the golden calf and the people dancing around, he was furious! He threw down the stone tablets and broke them. Moses burned the golden calf and ground it into powder. He sprinkled the powder in the water and made the people drink it. Then later, God punished them with a plague.

But the people weren't the only ones in trouble. Moses had left Aaron in charge. He asked Aaron what happened that caused him to do such a sinful thing and make this idol. But Aaron didn't want to take the blame, so he said the people made him do it.

Exodus 32:24

Listen to what Aaron said. Read Exodus 32:24.

- What did he say happened? *He said the people gave him their gold; he threw it into the fire, and a calf came out.*

Aaron's story was not the whole truth. He made it sound like the gold turned into a calf by itself and popped out of the fire! Ta-da! Just like that.

But we already read a verse that says, "he fashioned the gold with a graving tool to make the golden calf." Aaron took time to shape the gold into this idol, didn't he? Aaron didn't want to take responsibility for his sin and confess it. But he had the choice to say no when the people told him to make the idol, so he couldn't blame them for what he had done.

Aaron and the Israelites were all guilty of sin against God. But Moses prayed for them, and God listened. They could have been wiped out because of their sin, but God chose to show mercy.

Moses was **ANGRY** that the people disobeyed God's **COMMANDS**.



Aaron and the people **SINNED** by making an **IDOL**.