

# Ages 7-10: Model the Golden Calf

## Materials Needed

5 pieces of aluminum foil approx. 5x5" (13x13cm) for each student, copies of *Model the Golden Calf Photo Directions* to share

Prepare in Advance  
Cut foil into pieces and read through the directions.

## New Church Concept Teacher Background

"Earth's living creatures correspond to affections, the mild and useful ones to good affections, the fierce and useless ones to evil affections. Specifically, cattle and calves correspond to affections of the natural mind." *Heaven and Hell* 110

Faith in the one and only true God is what makes our goodness truly good even in its inner form. Faith in a false God, on the other hand, makes our goodness good in outer form only. This type of goodness is not intrinsically good; for example, the faith ancient people used to have in Jupiter, Juno, and Apollo; the faith the Philistines had in Dagon, and other Canaanites had in Baal. These kinds of faith are completely different from faith in the Lord, who is the true God and eternal life. See *True Christian Religion* 655

Children will model a "golden" calf from aluminum foil, as the children of Israel modeled a calf from the earrings they took from their ears. We recommend watching our video directions for this project at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-how-to-make-a-foil-calf>.



1. We're going to make a model of the golden calf to show what it takes to make gods in our own image.
2. How can you make something that looks just the way you want it to? You will probably think hard about what it is you want to make and then choose materials that can be shaped the way you want.
3. Can you remember a time when an adult told you to do something that you didn't want to do? Did you try to make what they asked you to do into something else—something you would prefer to do instead? For example, have you ever said, "No, *that's not what you said?*" or "I didn't hear you say *that!*"?
4. People sometimes react that way to the Lord's Word. This is like making a golden calf to worship.
5. Give each child five pieces of foil and copies of the *Photo Directions* to share. Help children follow the directions. You might also show them the video mentioned above.
6. As children work the foil, encourage them to think about what the children of Israel might have been thinking as Aaron shaped the calf from their earrings.
7. As they finish, remind them that the one the children of Israel made had to be destroyed because making it broke one of the Ten Commandments. Depending on your group, you may want to suggest they represent this part of the story by crushing the calf they have made.

## New Church Concept Teacher Background

The Egyptians knew that a calf represented the good of charity. But when they began to make calves of gold, and to place them in their temples and worship them, they then inverted a true representative into a false representative. See *Arcana Coelestia* 7779

The children of Israel would not have been told to plunder the Egyptians if such actions had not represented something hidden. This can be deduced from the [negative] symbolism of silver and gold. False notions are gods of silver, and corrupt desires are gods of gold. See *Arcana Coelestia* 1551

## Commandment 1: The Golden Calf

## Model the Golden Calf Photo Directions

For video directions, go to <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-how-to-make-a-foil-calf>.

1. Use 5 pieces of foil. Take one piece and crunch into a body.



2. Put another layer of foil over the body and shape it into legs.



3. Add another layer of foil. Bulk up the legs and shape a tail.



4. The tail and legs will look like this when you have finished.



5. Crunch one end of a new piece of foil into a head leaving foil at the back to attach it to the body.



6. Attach the head to the body.



7. Wrap another layer of foil on top of the head and shape horns.



8. Your finished calf should look pretty much like this.

