

# 31. The Golden Calf

## *The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children*

### Notes for Parents & Teachers

#### 31. The Golden Calf

- a. There are many parts that you can emphasize. I would suggest focusing on two. Ingratitude, and remembering.
- b. The Lord did so much for them, and how quickly they forgot His goodness to them. Maybe talk to them about how long 40 days and 40 nights might have seemed to them, with Moses gone.
- c. Use examples from your own life of the things you always want to remember with gratitude. Giving you a wonderful marriage, them as children—you can make up a list and say that you remember these things, and love to remember them, and are grateful the Lord gave them.
- d. The point here is that had the children of Israel been in inner goodness at that time, they would never have forgotten what the Lord did for them. Remembering the good things that others do for us is great, and so is feeling grateful. But it is especially important to be grateful to the Lord, because He gives us everything.
- e. A lot of the gold and jewels that the Lord had let them take out of Egypt were wasted doing something really bad. They could have been used another way.

- f. Even Aaron did this. He was Moses' brother, and knew all the miracles the Lord had done, but he made the golden calf. Even good people sometimes do something really wrong, and they need to see how wrong it is.
- g. Point out how horrible the burned and ground-up gold must have tasted in the water.



Text simplified by Carol Bongers Buss

Pictures by Dianna Echols Synnestvedt

Notes by the Rt. Rev. Peter M. Buss, Sr.

To purchase book of 56 stories, visit  
[https://newchurchbooks.com/product/  
the-word-of-the-lord-new-testament/](https://newchurchbooks.com/product/the-word-of-the-lord-new-testament/).

## The Lord Is Sad When the People Do Not Obey Him

The Lord called to Moses and told him to come up the mountain of Sinai so that He could speak to him. Afterwards Moses went down the mountain and he wrote all the Lord's laws and commandments for the people. Then Moses came and told the people all the words of the Lord. All the people answered together and said, "All the words which the Lord has said we will do."

The Lord said to Moses, "Come up to Me in the mountain and I will give you tablets of stone on which I have written the law and commandments that you may teach the people." And Moses wrote down the rules for how the people were to live. Then Moses stayed on the mountain with the Lord for forty days and forty nights. And when the Lord had finished speaking to Moses, He gave him two tablets of stone on which were the Ten Commandments, written with the finger of God.

And when the children of Israel saw that Moses had not come back, they said, "We do not know what has happened to him. Let us make a god which shall go before us and keep us safe." Aaron, the priest, said to them, "Take off your golden earrings and bring them to me." And Aaron melted the gold from the people's earrings and he made a golden calf. Then Aaron said, "We will have a feast to the Lord tomorrow."

And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people have done an evil thing. And I am angry with them, and I shall punish them terribly." Then Moses begged the Lord and said, "Lord, why are you angry with these people that you have brought out of the land of Egypt? Please don't hurt them, remember the promise you made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." And the Lord listened to Moses and forgave the people.

Then Moses went down the mountain with the two tablets of stone in his hands, written on both sides. And the writing on them was the writing of God. When Moses came to the camp and saw the people dancing around the golden calf, he was angry. He threw the tablets from his hands and they broke at the bottom of the mountain. Then Moses took the golden calf which they had made and he burnt it in the fire. Then he ground it to powder and he made the people drink water with the ground up gold in it. And Moses said, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come to me."

Exodus 24, 31, 32

