

MEETING 4

WHO DO WE WORSHIP?

THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD WHO ALONE DESERVES WORSHIP.

EXODUS IS A BOOK OF REDEMPTION, HOPE, AND PROMISES KEPT BY GOD. IT IS ALSO A BOOK OF GREAT DISOBEDIENCE FROM GOD'S PEOPLE. GOD PROVIDED EVERYTHING THE ISRAELITES NEEDED ON THEIR JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND. YET DESPITE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, GOD'S PEOPLE DOUBTED HIM. THE ISRAELITES' DISOBEDIENCE REMINDS US THAT OUR GOD IS THE ONLY TRUE GOD. HE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN AND WILL PROVIDE AND THE ONLY ONE WHO DESERVES WORSHIP.

UNIT VERSE

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.
Revelation 4:11 NIV

BIBLE VERSE

You shall have no other gods before me. *Exodus 20:3 NIV*

BONUS VERSE

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. *Isaiah 40:28 NIV*

BIBLE STORY

The Golden Calf (Exodus 32)

BIBLE TRUTH

There is one true God who alone deserves worship.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

- God is Creator and worthy to be praised.

BIBLE SKILL

Reads and locates Bible references.

PARENT CONNECTION

Lead parents deeper into the Bible story and life application by sharing this meeting's Parent Connection (Item 21).

Check-In Activity (5-10 MINUTES)



PROVIDE:

- Paper (1 sheet per child)
- Crayons or markers

TO DO:

- Place paper and markers or crayons on the tables.

- As TeamKIDs arrive, give each child a sheet of paper and coloring utensils. Instruct kids to draw their favorite gift they've ever received. After everyone has finished drawing, select a few kids to share what they drew and why it is their favorite gift.
- Explain that although God allows us to have good things in this world, things will never completely satisfy us. Toys break. Experiences end. Even the people we love most in this world let us down sometimes, but God never fails us. He is the one true God, and He alone deserves worship. We worship God because of who He is and what He has done for us.

Large Group (15-20 MINUTES)

PROVIDE:

- Bible
- Music and Hot potato object**

TO DO:

- Mark Exodus 32 in your Bible.

Tell the Bible story.

- Ask: "Do you think you have ever worshiped anything besides God? Today, we will learn that our hearts are prone to worship. Because of the brokenness of sin, we often turn to worshipping other things instead of worshipping God."
- Open your Bible to Exodus 32. Hold the Bible open on your lap and tell the following Bible story.

THE GOLDEN CALF BASED ON EXODUS 32

God had delivered the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and from Pharaoh and his pursuing army. The Israelites came to Mount Sinai (SIGH nigh), and they camped there in front of the mountain.

Moses went up the mountain, and God spoke to him. God had a lot to tell Moses, and Moses was up on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights.

Meanwhile, the Israelites at the bottom of the mountain were getting impatient. They began to wonder, "Where is Moses? What is taking him so long? Is he still alive?"

The Israelites went to Moses' brother, Aaron. "Make us a god to lead us," they said. "We don't know what has happened to Moses." So Aaron made a golden calf that they could worship.

God saw what the people were doing, and He was angry because of their sin. God told Moses to go down the mountain. "I will destroy these people," God said.

"Please forgive them," Moses said. "Remember the great promise You



made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You promised to give them as many offspring as there are stars in the sky. You promised to bless them and give them land." So God decided not to destroy the people. Moses went down the mountain. He carried two stone tablets on which God had written the laws. Moses got closer to the camp and saw that the people were dancing before the golden calf! He threw down the stone tablets, smashing them at the bottom of the mountain. Then he destroyed the calf they made.

"What were you thinking?" Moses asked Aaron. The people were out of control. The next day, Moses went back up the mountain to talk to God. "These people have sinned against You," Moses said. "Please forgive their sin."

God told Moses to return to the people. "When the time comes, I will punish them for their sin," God said. Then the Lord sent a plague—a terrible sickness—to the people because they worshiped the golden calf.

God continued to meet with Moses and give him laws and instructions. He made two more stone tablets to replace the ones Moses broke. One morning, Moses went up the mountain to meet with God. The Lord came down in a cloud. He said, "The LORD is a compassionate and gracious God ... but He will not leave the guilty unpunished."

Moses bowed down and worshiped God. "Lord, please go with us," he said. "Forgive our sin, and accept us as Your people."

Review the Bible story.

• Play hot potato with your group to review the Bible Story.

1. What wrong choice did God's people make? (*The created an idol to worship.*)
2. How did God punish the people for that choice? (*God sent a plague.*)
3. How did Moses pray to God after the people were punished? (*Moses asked God to forgive them.*)
4. Why do you think the people built and started worshiping an idol? (*The people didn't trust God*)
5. Has there ever been a time in your life when you didn't completely trust God? If so, did you turn to something or someone else to put your trust in? (*Allow various answers from TeamKIDs.*)

Apply Bible learning.

- Explain that God's people grew impatient waiting to receive what God had promised them. They stopped trusting God to provide and turned to a false god. Share with TeamKIDs that worship is showing adoration or honor for something or someone above everything else. Parents, friends, or even achievements in school and sports are important, but are certainly not worthy of worship. Point kids to Jesus by reminding them that He is the one who gives us a new heart to worship God alone.

Missions (5 MINUTES)

- **Consider reviewing the missions video, "All About South Asia. Remind TeamKIDs they are learning about the people of South Asia and how they can tell them about Jesus.**

Pray.

- Lead kids in prayer. Ask God to help them trust in Him even when they cannot see the full picture of His plans. Pray that every child would learn to love and trust Jesus alone, and through that trust, that they would worship Him as an expression of their love.

Small Group (15-20 MINUTES)

Expand the Session

- Distribute an **Activity Page** to each child. Lead kids to complete this week's activity page.



Activity (20-25 MINUTES)

PROVIDE:

- Blindfolds (1 per child)

TO DO:

- Follow your church's security procedures as this activity may require going into the hallway.

BLINDLY FOLLOW

- Allow kids to pair off. Give each child a blindfold but instruct them not to put it on yet. If your space is small, consider leading kids into the hallway. One child from each group should put on a blindfold and lead her partner around the area. Explain that, to successfully follow, kids should listen close for their partner's voice because there will be lots of other distracting voices. After a few minutes, allow kids to switch. After everyone has led, gather kids back to one space to debrief.
- Ask: "Was it hard to hear your partner? Were you easily distracted?" Allow kids to respond. Explain that when other things seem or sound better to our ears than God's instruction, it can be easy to stray from His Word. We have to listen close for His voice and tune out all distractions. Call on a child to read Exodus 20:3 aloud for the group. Challenge TeamKIDs not to get distracted from worshipping the one true God.



Check Out Activity (15-20 MINUTES)

1. MUSICAL CHAIRS

- Start music, and allow TeamKIDs to walk around the room. Intermittently stop the music and instruct TeamKIDs to quickly find a seat. The TeamKID left standing is out, and one chair is removed. Encourage TeamKIDs who are sitting on the sidelines to help the coach determine the child who claimed the last seat on each new turn. Start the final round when two kids and only one chair remain. The last kid sitting is the winner!
- Debrief: Remind TeamKIDs that music is an important part of worship, both at church and at home. While singing praises to God is a great way to worship, there are many other ways to worship. Worshiping God is about giving Him glory with our whole lives!

TEAM KID - All In

Lesson 1 Bible Story

Exodus 32 New International Version (NIV)

The Golden Calf

32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods[a] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

2 Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." 3 So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. 4 He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods,[b] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord." 6 So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

7 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. 8 They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

9 "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. 10 Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

11 But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. "Lord," he said, "why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. 13 Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.'" 14 Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

15 Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant law in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. 16 The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

17 When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, "There is the sound of war in the camp."

18 Moses replied:

"It is not the sound of victory,
it is not the sound of defeat;
it is the sound of singing that I hear."

19 When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. 20 And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

21 He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?"

22 "Do not be angry, my lord," Aaron answered. "You know how prone these people are to evil. 23 They said to me, 'Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' 24 So I told them, 'Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.' Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!"

25 Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. 26 So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, "Whoever is for the Lord, come to me." And all the Levites rallied to him.

27 Then he said to them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.'" 28 The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. 29 Then Moses said, "You have been set apart to the Lord today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day."

30 The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

31 So Moses went back to the Lord and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. 32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written."

33 The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. 34 Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

35 And the Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.