

Family Worship Guide

Week 26

Read

Exodus 32

Questions

1. If you were to draw a picture of God, what would you draw?

It would be pretty hard to draw someone who is invisible. God is a spirit, and He does not have a physical body like you and me.

2. Do you remember what the second commandment was from Exodus 20?

God tells us that we must not make any images of Him. He does not want us to try and draw pictures of Him or make statues that represent Him. These are called idols. This is what the Israelites did.

3. According to the beginning of chapter 32, why did the Israelites ask Aaron to make these idols?

Moses had been on Mount Sinai for a long time. They doubted Moses and they doubted God.

4. In verse 4, Aaron makes the golden calf, and then says something particularly horrible. What was it?

He presented the golden calf to the people of Israel, and Aaron announced to them that the golden calf was the god who had rescued them from Egypt!

5. God told Moses that He was preparing to destroy the people of Israel. What did Moses do?

Moses prayed, and pleaded with God to remember His covenant with the patriarchs. God listened to Moses' prayer.

6. How did God show mercy to the people of Israel?

Rather than punish the entire nation, God spared everyone except 3000 people who were leading the people into sin. Also, in verse 34, God tells Moses to continue to lead the people to the Promised Land. Incredible! Even after this horrible sin and rebellion, God still allowed the people to journey toward the Promised Land.

7. Christians today do not worship golden calves and statues. But do we make idols of our own? Can you think of things that you put in the place of God?

Idols are anything we turn to, other than God, to meet the needs that only God can provide. Are you counting on something other than God for peace and happiness? Are you counting on something other than God for safety and security? Are you looking to something other than God and His Word to direct your daily life decisions?

Praise

Praise God for giving us:

Himself

Grace and Mercy

Salvation

Our family

Our church family

What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION – “He keeps His promises.”
- CONFESSION – “Confess times when we have not obeyed”
- THANKSGIVING – “How has God been faithful to your family?”
- SUPPLICATION – “God encourages us to bring all of our needs and burdens to Him.”
- Pray that we will live obediently to God’s Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our Howell family, Missionaries in the Ireland. Please pray for their leadership. Pray for their family! Pray for their protection.

Memorize

“Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

- **Jonah 2:8**

Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

Kids Fun

Supplies needed: A doll or stuffed animal. A piece of candy or a treat placed in a high place where a child cannot reach it.

I am so glad that we are back together for family worship. In order to get us started, I need a volunteer. I have a challenge for you. Are you ready? Before I give you your mission, I need to give you a partner to help you.

Give the volunteer the doll or stuffed animal.

Now that you have your partner, you are ready for your first challenge. You can ask your partner to help anytime you need it. The first challenge is a trivia question. Who was elected president in 1980?

Most kids won’t know the answer to this question. Encourage them, if they are unsure, to ask their “partner” for help. The goal is that they will not know the answer (make the question harder as needed), and that they will laugh as you encourage them to ask the doll for help.

Well, I am sorry that you and your partner didn't win that round. Can I get another volunteer? OK, I have a new mission for you. Remember your partner can help you win. I have a short relay race that I want you to run. Your job is to run from this room into the kitchen and back again. You then sit down, and your partner (the doll) will then run the second part of the relay race. When your partner runs into the kitchen and back again, the race is done. So you run first. Remember your partner has to run his race by himself. It is a relay. You can't do it for him. Go!

Obviously, the doll won't be winning any races. Consider getting the family to cheer the doll on in an effort to get it to move.

I think you all did great. But your partner didn't do well at all. He didn't know the trivia question, and he didn't even try to run in the race. I know this was all pretty silly. Dolls can't speak, and they don't run relay races. It is foolish to think that a doll could ever do these things. Believe it or not, the people of Israel do something even more foolish than this. We are going to read about it in just a moment.

For Teens

Consider talking about these questions with your teen

1. Consider this terrible event with the golden calf. It was not that long ago when these people walked through the Red Sea, with water on both sides. Each morning God had been raining down bread on them. Yet, after Moses had been gone for a while, they doubted God and asked Aaron for an idol. Why do you think they did this?

Even after seeing these amazing miracles, they rebelled against God and did what they wanted to do. One of the ways Satan causes us to doubt God is by leading us to believe that "if I could only see a real miracle, then I would believe in God." Well, the Israelites saw real miracles, and they still doubted and rebelled. Part of the truth we need to learn from these events with the golden calf is that we all exchange the truth of God for lies. We all, at times, make our own idols to which we give more love, attention, worship and sacrifice than God.

2. Can you name the idols that you struggle with in your life?

Do you love a person or a thing more than God? Do you sacrifice for a person or a thing more than you sacrifice for God? Do you seek to please another person more than you seek to please God? These questions can reveal hidden idols in our hearts. Try and name the idols you "make" in your life. Confess them. Repent of them. Ask God to set you free from them.