

Women's Bible Study

A TWO-YEAR JOURNEY THROUGH
THE STORY OF GOD

Week 9 | Gods of Gold | Exodus 32

1. Read Exodus 32
2. For 40 days Moses was on the mountain of God receiving the law. Although they had seen and heard incredible things from the mountain, the Israelites grew tired of waiting, and rejected God's authority. Instead, they chose how and what they would worship by asking Aaron to do what for them?
Exodus 32:1

What did worship of the golden calf involve? Exodus 32:5-6

3. When the Lord saw the Israelites' sin, how did he describe it to Moses? Exodus 32:7-10
4. In Exodus 32:11-14 the Lord is ready to destroy the whole nation as a just consequence of their rebellion, but God relents in response to Moses' plea of intercession. Moses' argument centers on God's covenant with Abraham. What does that tell you about God's faithfulness in the face of His people's rebellion?

Who is the one who intercedes on our behalf? Hebrews 7:25

5. Moses' righteous anger burns and causes him to break the tablets when he sees the people engaging in idol worship. What does he do next? Exodus 32:19-20

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6. When Moses asks Aaron about the golden calf, Aaron gives several excuses or justifications for his sin. List them here. Exodus 32:22-24

How do we make excuses or justify our sin today?

7. Exodus 32:25 says many of the people are still “running wild” so God, through Moses, calls for those who are, “for the Lord,” to step forward and kill those engaged in evil acts. Although this passage seems harsh, what does it teach us about God’s tolerance of sin? Exodus 32:27-29 (Be sure to complete the reflection question if you are struggling with this part of the story.)
8. Moses knew the sin of the people required atonement (reparation for a wrong or injury). In an incredible act of love and leadership, what did Moses offer to do to make atonement for the sin of the people in Exodus 32:30-32?
9. *Reflect and Connect to NEW TESTAMENT:* Although God did not accept Moses’ life as an atonement for the sins of the people, He later did accept another man’s life. Read **1 John 2:1-2** and reflect on the beautiful truth found there. Record your thoughts. *Note: Some translations use the word, “propitiation” which means atonement*

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