

SET FREE FROM IDOLS

EXODUS 32:1-6
PSALM 106

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Open your group or time alone in prayer, and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the provided questions and Next Steps above, or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, look over the three essential questions at the end.

ICEBREAKER (options):

- What was the most defiant thing you ever did against your parents' wishes—something you can laugh about now but perhaps wasn't so funny at the time?
 - What do you have a hard time waiting for?
1. In vv. 1-6 How long has Moses been away on the mountain (v. 1; see Ex 24:18)? What does Aaron do for stress management and damage control? What instincts is he drawing upon? Where did the people learn to worship in this manner? Where do you assign the blame for making the calf?
 2. What do you do when you feel God has stopped speaking to you?
 3. Share a time in your life when it was much easier to choose the comfortable over what was right. Share what happened.
 4. Reflect on pastor David's Big Idea: "Who and what we worship determines the quality and direction of our life."
 5. Why is it dangerous to forget God and run to our idols?
 6. Which of the 5 "Idol Identifying Questions" do you find most challenging?
 - What do I worry, daydream, or think about the most?
 - What do I look at, search for, or post the most about on social media?
 - What, if I failed at or lost it, would cause me to feel that I did not even want to live?
 - What person, place, or thing do I organize my life around?
 - What or who do I turn to for comfort when I feel pressured, tense, or upset?

THREE ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. **What do you think?** How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking? What point in this message was most impactful for you?
2. **What will you do?** How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?
3. **How can you help others in your group?** How can you encourage, affirm, pray for, or keep accountable the commitments they put into practice?

KIDS' GUIDE:

Parents,

Have a small statue in your hand. Explain to the kids that each time you hold up the statue they have to freeze like a statue. They must hold their frozen statue pose until you are no longer holding the statue up in the air. Do this multiple times for fun.

Can you think of any statues in parks or around our town? Name a statue of a famous baseball player or an artist or author we have seen on vacation or in a movie.

Statues are fine unless they become something that we worship other than God. When we do that, the statue becomes an idol that replaces our God.

That is what Pastor David's sermon is about. Moses was up on a mountain called Mt. Sinai. God had told Moses to go on the mountain so that God could give him the Ten Commandments for the people to follow.

Moses stayed up on the mountain longer than the people thought he should. They went to Aaron and said to him, "We want you to create gods who will go before us so that we will know what way to go. As for this fellow, Moses, who brought us out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings you are wearing and bring them to me." So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took all the gold they had given to him and made it into an idol in the shape of a calf. The people were very happy with the idol that had been made for them.

When Aaron saw how happy the people were, he built an altar for the calf. He said, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord and you are to rise up early and make a sacrifice of burnt offerings before the calf." When God saw what the people were doing, He became very angry and told Moses that He was going to destroy the people because of their unfaithfulness. But Moses begged the Lord to remember the promise that He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and the children of Israel. Moses convinced the Lord, and He changed His mind and did not do what He said He might do. He did not destroy them.

What can we learn from this? We sometimes put other things before God. It may not be an idol made of gold in the shape of a calf, but it may be things like money, friends, or sports. Anything we put ahead of our love for God becomes an idol and that is a big mistake. Pastor David asked us to think about what our idols are. Talk as a family about laying your idols down and deciding to put Jesus above everything.

Pray as a family: Dear God, let us always remember that You created us and all we have. You must always have first place in our life. In Jesus' name, amen.

(sermon4kids.com)