

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments, as you feel necessary, to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

The Golden Calf – March 19, 2023

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- **Read & Discuss** 1 Corinthians 10:6-13.
 - What does verse 13 mean? What can we learn from studying the sins found in the Old Testament?
 - How does verse 13 undermine the ideologies that support progressivism?

8 Ways Israel Fell into Sin

1st - Israel fell into sin because they wanted to replace God with themselves, as god.

- According to Exodus 32:1, why did Israel want Aaron to build them gods?
- Have you ever been frustrated with God’s timing? How can a lack of patience and faith in God’s timing lead us to sin?
- What is the heart behind Israel's sin? What is the heart behind all sin? Explain your answer.

2nd - They didn't follow God’s prescribed order.

- **Read Genesis 3:1-6.** In this passage, who was leading whom? How did this go against God’s created order?
- In what ways does our culture rebel against God’s created order? How is this related to the first point of the sermon?

- In Exodus 32:1 Who was leading? Who was supposed to lead? Read Exodus 24:14 to help answer this question.
- In what ways is the author of Exodus relating Aaron to Adam in Exodus 32?
- What should Adam have done in the garden when the snake spoke? What should Aaron have done when the people questioned God's timing?
- How does a lack of godly leadership within the family and within the church lead to sin?

3rd - Israel suppressed the truth in unrighteousness.

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 32:1. Why do you think they gave Moses all the credit for delivering them from Egypt? How is this an indication that they were suppressing the truth in their hearts?
- How are you tempted to suppress the truth about God in your daily life? Why is this dangerous?
- **Read and discuss** Psalm 106:19. How do these two verses display the stupidity of Israel's actions? Why is it easier for us to see other people's stupidity than our own when we are caught up in sin?

4th - They fell into sin because they were enticed by a sinful culture.

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 32:2-3. Where did Israel learn how to worship this way? Read Acts 7:39 to help answer this question. How can a culture be in someone's heart?
- What does this tell us about the influence of culture on a person's heart? How can we protect ourselves from our own culture's influence on our own heart?
- Why is it necessary to understand a person's culture before sharing the gospel with them?

5th - Israel relied too heavily on their sight and not the Word of God.

- Discuss as a group the following question. What do you think the average non-believer would say to why they don't believe in God?
- How does verse 1 set the tone for the entire passage on the golden calf?

- *Leaders Cheat: Point out the word "saw" in verse 1.*
- How were the Israelites relying on their sight instead of the Word of God?
- Why do we tend to believe what we see over anything else?
- How often does our sight lead us astray?
- **Read & discuss** Gen. 3:1-6. How did Eve's sight lead her to question the word of God?
- **Read & discuss** 2 Samuel 11:1-5. How did David's sight lead him to sin?
- **Read & discuss** Matthew 14:25-31. How did the disciples' sight (in particular Peter) make them question the words of Jesus?
- What does Romans 10:17 mean and how does it relate to the questions above?
- Why would it have been attractive for Israel to worship a god who could not speak?

6th - They mixed true worship of Yahweh with pagan practices and false beliefs.

- In what ways does the modern church mix pagan, non-Christian practices with worship of God?
- Have you ever shared the Gospel with a Jehovah's Witness, a Mormon or a Catholic? Why is it difficult to share the gospel with these religious groups? Do they think they are worshipping the biblical God? Why or why not?

7th - Israel let the lust of their hearts guide them, instead of the truth.

- **Read and discuss** Exodus 32:6. How did idolatry lead to drunkenness and sexual perversion?
 - *Leaders cheat: the word "play" has sexual overtones connected to it.*
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - The cow gave no law and demanded no obedience. It had no wrath or justice or holiness to be feared. It was deaf, dumb, and impotent. But at least it could not intrude on their fun and call them to judgment. - **R.C. Sproul**

- How does the lust of man's heart lead them away from truth?
- What are some ways modern men justify their hedonistic lifestyles?

8th - They forgot about the God who saved them.

- According to Psalm 106:19-22, why did Israel fall into sin?
- How could Israel forget God so quickly and what does this tell us about our tendency to forget God and his grace?
- What are some practical ways we can protect ourselves from forgetting?

Announcements:

Love & Respect Biblical Marriage Class

Thursdays, starting March 23 | 6:30pm | Smith's Home

Sundays, starting April 2 | 8:50am | Room 201

Married or not, doing great or struggling, this class is for you! Come learn how to thrive in marriage based on God's instructions in Ephesians 5:33. Join us on Sunday morning, led by John and Karen Johnson, or on Thursday night, led and hosted by Richard and Anna Smith at their home in Stallion Springs (no childcare for the Thursday night class). The class is only \$25 per couple and includes two workbooks. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up soon. Hope to see you there! Sign up at cobc.churchcenter.com/registrations.

Free Parent Workshop: Kindergarten Readiness

Friday, March 24 | 2pm | The Grove

If you have a child entering kindergarten this fall, HOS invites you to attend this free workshop to hear from a panel of local educators and learn how you can help your child successfully transition into the classroom setting and be ready for kindergarten! Attendees will receive a packet of information as well as a small gift bag. Free childcare for kids age 4-6 during the workshop. Call the school office at 661.823.0885 to RSVP (be sure to let us know if you need childcare - space is limited).

Sunday Night Service - Sola Gratia

Sunday, March 26 | 6pm | Worship Center

Join us on the last Sunday of the month for a time of worship and fellowship as we continue our Sola series with Sola Gratia - Grace alone. There will be childcare for kids ages 0-3. Hope to see you there!