



3rd & 4th

Unit 5: Rules to Live By

Story 13.B - Tabernacle and Idol Worship (Exodus 25-30, 32-34)

INTRODUCTIONS - Introduce yourself and consider having students do the same if you have children new to the group. Fill out the top of the Roster and take attendance.

BIBLE TIME - Have kids open their bookmarked Bibles (**Exodus 32**).

Read Exodus 32:1-6

What did the people want from Aaron? (They wanted him to make a god to lead them.)

Why did they want that? (Moses had been gone for too long and they didn't know what had happened to him.)

What were the first two commandments that they heard directly from God? (#1 Put no other gods before me. #2 Do not make idols out of anything and worship them.)

Which of these commandments were the people breaking already? (Both of them. They were creating a god and worshipping it instead of worshipping the Lord.)

What was Moses doing up on the mountain at this time? (Learning from God how the people can worship him so they can be in his presence. This included sacrifices and building a tabernacle.)

Is it possible to make something that can become alive? Can you take this playdough and with it make a living, breathing animal? (It might have the form of an animal, but it can never be alive.)

Knowing that we can't make even the tiniest living thing, does it make sense that humans could make a god? (Encourage discussion. Be sure to have the kids think about the fact that we don't even know what God looks like and that the qualities of God that we do know cannot be created i.e. God is: all knowing, all powerful, never ending, all loving, fair, ever present, etc.)

Read Exodus 32:7-14

Did the Lord know what the people were doing? (Yes.)

What does it mean to be stubborn? (This is also sometimes called being 'stiff necked' which means they refuse to bow their heads in submission. Stubborn means that you want to do things your own way and will not do what the person who is charge says.)

Did the people know that it was wrong to build this statue out of gold? (Yes! They heard God's actual voice tell them not to do it.)

What did God say first that he was going to do? Why didn't he do it? (He said that he would destroy them, but Moses spoke on their behalf.)

What promise did Moses ask God to remember? (The covenant that God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)

Read Exodus 15-20

What was Moses bringing down the mountain? (The 10 commandments, also known as God's law)

What did Moses do when he found the people breaking God's law and worshipping an idol? (He broke the tablets which contained God's law. *This may be the origin of the phrase, 'breaking the law'.)

What did he do to the golden calf that the people were worshipping? (He burned it, ground it down, added it to water, and made the people drink it.)

(Summary of missing text: The Lord made a second set of tablets with the 10 Commandments carved into them to be placed in the Ark of the Covenant.)

Read Exodus 32:31-32

Who did God say he would erase from the book he had written? ("only the names of those who have sinned against me.")

How is this a problem for all of mankind? (Everyone has sinned against God.)

Read Exodus 32:35 - 33:3

What two ways that the Lord punished the people? (The Lord struck them with a plague, which is a sickness, and would not go with them as they travelled to the promised land.)

Which punishment was worse? (Encourage discussion.)

***Extended Discussion:**

What was the ultimate consequence of Adam and Eve's sin? (They were separated from God and made to leave the Garden of Eden.)

When Cain killed Abel, what was his consequence? (He had to leave his family and be separated from God.)

What is the ultimate consequence of our own sin and how did Jesus repair it? (We face eternal separation from a holy God. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin so that we can be forgiven and be in God's presence again.)

Preview Next Week: This week we learned about how God showed mercy on his people once again even though they were a stubborn people. Next week, we will learn about how on the Day of Atonement he provided a way for them to atone for their sins each year.

CRAFT: GOD FIRST FLIPBOOK- Give each kid a notecard and a colored paper. Explain that even though we aren't building gods out of melted metal, we can make other things in life more important than God which is a type of idolatry. As a group think about what types of things they spend a lot of time thinking about or wanting to do (ex: sports, school, friends, TV, etc...) as each item is named, have them write it onto the notecard. Finally explain to them that keeping God first is a choice that we have to make every day. Have them write the phrase, "Keep God first!" on the colored sheet and make a crease across the very top of it. Use the glue sticks to glue the folded edge down to the notecard so that it covers all of the other activities, but can be lifted up to view them.

MEMORY VERSE - Practice the verse together using one of the activities on the Memory Game List.

Unit 5 Memory Verse: "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." ~Psalm 119:11

PRAYER

Ask the group if they have any prayer requests before leading the kids in prayer.

COMMUNITY & SNACK TIME

Hand out snacks, and water. This is an intentional time to create a sense of community within the group. Sit at the table with the kids and encourage conversation as they eat. If you have extra time, consider playing one of the community building games from the list.