



Pre-K & Kindergarten

Unit 5: Rules to Live By

Story 13.B - Tabernacle and Idol Worship

(Exodus 32-34)

Some Pre-K kids may arrive at the beginning of the service. Do these two activities with them:

TABLE ACTIVITIES - Start with play-doh, puzzles, pop beads, or coloring from the cabinet.

WORSHIP - At 8:45 / 10:30 have kids clean up and gather on the carpet for music. Sing songs with them as you feel led. You may use the CD player and song sheet or sing a song of your choice.

WELCOME - About 15–20 minutes after service starts, have kids sit in a circle on the rug. Consider welcoming them with the following song, to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

We're glad you're here today (clap), we're glad you're here today (clap),
Wave your hands and say hello (everyone waves), we're glad you're here today (clap).
God loves you, so do we (hug yourself), God loves you, so do we (hug yourself),
We are all a family (everyone puts hands in the middle), God loves you, so do we (hug yourself).

Set behavioral expectations with the following questions:

Where are we? We're at church.

Why are we here? To learn about God and worship him.

How should we act in this special place? Listen carefully and respect each other.

Go around the circle and let each kid introduce themselves and answer the Question of the Day. (At your discretion, pass a stuffie around during introductions.) [What is your favorite animal?](#)

BIBLE SKILLS - Get out the Bible. Explain that the Bible is our greatest treasure because it is the Word of God. (Pre-K will find the Bible in the Treasure Box). Explain how God, the creator of the world and everything in it, teaches us about himself in this special book. Go over the Bible knowledge points below:

[The Bible came from God.](#)

[The whole Bible says that God loves us and sent Jesus to be our Savior.](#)

Let kids pass the Bible around the circle, with each of them patting it gently and saying, “The Word of God.”

MEMORY VERSE - [“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” ~Psalm 119:11](#)

- Show them where the words are in the Bible to help them understand that it is a part of God's Word.
- Practice the verse together - Consider using one of the activities on the Memory Game List

BIBLE STORY - Have the kids move to the center of the rug if they are not already there for storytime. Using the pictures provided tell the story for today.

God gave his people 10 special rules called the 10 Commandments. ([Show picture](#)) [Do you remember the first two commandments that he gave?](#) #1 Don't have any gods before me. #2 Don't make anything and then bow down and worship it. These rules are very simple, but it turns out that they weren't that easy for his people to follow! After God gave his 10 rules, Moses went up the mountain to talk to God. He learned all

about how God wanted the people to worship him. He learned about what kind of sacrifices they should make and how to build a special tent where God would live called the Tabernacle. (*Show picture*)

Moses spent 40 days up on Mount Sinai with God. *While he was up there, do you think the people were waiting patiently for him?* No! They began to get impatient for him to come down. In fact, they got so tired of waiting that they did something very surprising. They went to Aaron, Moses' brother, and asked him to make them a god to lead them since Moses hadn't come back yet! Can you believe it? They wanted to make a god! *Do you think that it is possible to make a god?* No!

The Hebrews actually believed that they could create their own god who would lead them. They took all of their jewelry and Aaron melted it down and formed it into a golden calf. (*Show picture.*) *Did they create the real God?* No, they did not. God never had a beginning or an end. He was not created, but here they were trying to make a new god. *Do you remember those two Commandments that we practiced earlier?* #1 Don't have any gods before me. #2 Don't make anything and then bow down and worship it. That was exactly what they were doing. They made a calf out of gold and bowed down to worship it.

What do you think Moses felt when he came down from talking to God? He was carrying the tablets with the 10 Commandments on them and found the Hebrews worshipping a fake god that they made out of gold. *Show me a face that you think shows what Moses felt.* You bet he was really angry! He was so mad that he threw the tablets onto the ground and they broke! (*Show picture*) The people had actually broken God's law.

Moses wasn't the only one who was mad about what the people were doing. *Who else do you think was angry?* Yes! God was very angry with the people that he had worked so hard to save from slavery in Egypt. He knew that the people were very stubborn. *Do you know what it means to be stubborn?* Stubborn means that you want your own way no matter what and refuse to do what is right even when you know what that is. *Did the people know it was wrong to make an idol and worship it? Did they know that they shouldn't put anything before God?* Yes! God himself told them just 40 days before.

God gave them two punishments. He put a plague on the people of Israel as a punishment for making the golden calf. He also told them that he would no longer be with them in a pillar of smoke during the day and a pillar of fire at night. *Which punishment do you think they were the most sad about, being sick or having God away from them?* They mourned for the loss of God's presence with them. They did not know that thousands of years later, God would send his own son, Jesus so he could be with us once again.

Big Truth: God's people should worship God the way he commands us to.

5. SNACK & REVIEW - Pass out snacks and water at the table (**check allergies on attendance roster**). Ask kids if they have any prayer requests and pray before eating. As they're eating, review the story and take some time getting to know them!

6. CRAFT: GOLDEN CALF - Hand out a picture of the golden calf along with golden tissue paper. Encourage them to glue the tissue to the calf and then color the people around it. Have Kindergarteners write the words 'No Idols' above the calf and Pre-K kids use the provided labels.

7. PLAYTIME If time allows, kids may play with toys or do a community game until their parents come.