



Date: _____
Series: Moses
Fall Year 2, Lesson 25

Moses & the Golden Calf

Take Home Point: *Only worship God.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Exodus 32

We will help children know:

- There is only one true God.
- We should only worship God, not things.




We will help children feel:

- Excited that God wants us to worship him.
- Happy that God loves us.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that is golden.
- Make a craft of the mountain Moses stayed on for 40 days.
- Play a learning game called *Are We Worshiping God?* and a movement game called *Who Do We Worship?*
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce today's Take Home Point: ***Only worship God.**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3 3 4	Sing (Optional) Puppet Presentation Bible Reading or (option) Moses & The Golden Calf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice Bubba puppet toy stuffed elephant children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6 9 10 11	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Learning Game and Movement Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins cups of water golden-colored cracker, any type <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copies of Appendix A cotton balls glue sticks crayons or markers <i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> beanbags two hula hoops
Large Group Wrap-up (5-10 minutes) 	13 13 14	Review Lesson and Take Home Point Pray Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the “joke” but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies: children’s picture Bible, stuffed elephant toy

Bubba Learns to Worship only God

Presenter: Boys and girls, let’s call for Bubba.

Kids call for Bubba. **Bubba...Bubba...Bubba.** Bubba enters with his elephant.

Presenter: Hi, Bubba. Who do you have with you today?

Bubba: My elephant, of course. My favorite elephant.

Presenter: Yes, I can tell that you like him very much.

Bubba: Yes, I like him more than I like my mommy.

Presenter: WHAT!

Bubba: I like him more than I like my daddy.

Presenter: WHAT! Bubba, that sounds to me like you just got in trouble.

Bubba: I did, but I still like my elephant more than anything.

Presenter: I hope that you don’t like him more than God!

Bubba: Maybe more than God. I can see my elephant, but I can’t see God.

Presenter: Boys and girls, should Bubba like his elephant more than he likes God? Pause. No. The Bible says that we should worship God and love him more than any other thing.

Bubba: Even if we can see an elephant and can't see God?

Presenter: We don't see God, but he is with us, and loves us, and wants us to worship him. Bubba, I need to tell you the story of how people worshiped a golden calf and forgot about the one true God. They learned they should not worship things but worship only God.

See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible.

Read from a children's picture Bible about Moses and the golden calf. If your picture Bible does not have that event, read the following. When finished, continue with the Take Home Point.

Moses & The Golden Calf

Moses led God's people out of Egypt. Remember how God parted the sea so the people could walk through on the ground? Remember how God took care of the people when they walked through the desert? Remember how God gave them food and was with them? They were God's people and it was important that they worshiped God.

But one day the people came to a big mountain. There was a cloud on top of the mountain with lots of thunder and lighting. They knew it was a special place; they knew that God was going to talk to Moses there. So Moses went up to the mountaintop and there he talked with God for a long, long time. Many days passed and they waited and waited but Moses didn't come down from the mountain. They thought that maybe Moses forgot about them. Maybe God forgot about them. Maybe they were all alone. "What shall we do?" they said. We do not have a leader and we think that God has forgotten us. Why don't we make our own God? So they decided to make a golden idol, they made it to look like a calf. They melted all their pretty gold jewelry and shaped it look like a calf. Then they bowed down and worshiped it. But was that calf alive? Could that golden calf help them? Was that golden calf the true God? No! They shouldn't worship a golden calf; they should only worship God. God did not forget about them.

When they were worshiping the calf, Moses came down. What have you done he asked? You've made a golden calf and worshiped the calf? This is not God. Worship the only true God. Now break this calf into pieces and tell God you are sorry. The people asked that God would forgive them for worshiping a golden calf. And God did. They asked that God would still be with them and that he would love them. God still loved them. God did forgive them and was still with them and loved them. Then they wanted all people to remember to only worship God.

Presenter: Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Only worship God. Only worship God.

Bubba, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Bubba: Sure, I love to sing.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.
ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.
WORSHIP the ONE true GOD.
ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
We worship only you. We worship only you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds.

Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- children's picture Bible

If you did not read this week's Bible Event or show a Bible video during the puppet presentation, read it before acting out the Bible Event.

Moses and the Golden Calf

Introduction

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them, too.

Moses leads the people out of Egypt.

- **God was with Moses. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. Let's pretend we are the people following Moses out of Egypt. Walk in place.**
- **Moses and the people walked and walked and walked. Finally they came to a mountain to set up camp. Let's pretend we are the people setting up camps. Let's set up our tents. Pretend to put up tents.**
- **Now it is time to cook food. Let's get out a big pot and put in some food and stir it.**
- **Now it is time to worship God. Let's fold our hands and get on our knees and pray to him.**

God talks to Moses.

- **God spoke to Moses. God told Moses that he should come up the mountain to talk to him. Let's pretend we are Moses and climb up the mountain. Step high and raise arms up high as if climbing.**
- **God told Moses that no one was to follow him up the mountain. Let's be Moses and tell others, "No one else can come up." Kids repeat.**
- **Then a big cloud came over the mountain and people couldn't see Moses anymore. Let's pretend to look for Moses on the mountaintop.**
- **Moses stayed up there talking to God a long time... many, many days. Let's count slowly. One...two...three...four...five. Longer than five days. All the way to 40 days!**

People forget about God.

- **Moses talked to God on the mountain many days—so long that the Israelites waited...and waited...and waited. Let's tap our foot and wait.**
- **They thought Moses forgot all about them. They thought God forgot all about them. They even forgot that God is the only true God. Because they forgot all these things, they said, "Let's make our own god. And all the people said, "YEA!" Kids say YEA!**
- **So they gathered all their gold together. They took all their gold, their coins, their earrings and all their gold jewelry and threw them in a pot to be melted. Let's pretend to take off our necklaces, bracelets and earrings and dig in our pockets for gold coins and put them in a pot.**
- **Then they made a very hot fire and began to melt the gold so they could shape it into a big golden calf. Let's shape the gold into a golden calf. Ouch! This fire is hot.**
- **When they finished, they said, "Let's worship the golden calf." I wonder if they called to the golden calf in a moo, moo sound? Shall we call to the golden calf with a moo sound? Then they bowed down to the golden calf. Shall we bow down?**

God does not like how the people are behaving.

- **Do you think God wanted these people to worship a golden calf instead of him? No! Shake head.**
- **God was angry. God was very angry. He told Moses "Go down and stop those naughty people." Point and say like God, "Go down and stop them." Kids repeat.**
- **So Moses walked down the mountain to the people. Let's walk. He said to the people, "STOP, everyone!" Kids repeat. "There is only one God." Kids repeat. "Worship him!" Kids repeat. "Not this golden calf." Kids repeat.**

The calf is destroyed.

- So Moses had the people tear down the calf. Let's tear down the calf. ...And break it apart! Let's break it apart. ...And grind it up. Let's grind it up.

Moses asks, "Who will you serve?"

- Then Moses said to the people, "If you believe you have done something very wrong and you want to come back and worship the only true God, then you can choose to do that now. Come and follow me." The people chose to follow Moses and the only true God. Follow me. Lead the kids in a small circle.
- Moses told the people to wait there. He went back up the mountain (climbing activity) and asked God, "Will you still love these people? Will you forgive them? Will you still be their God?" And God said, "Of course, I will love them. Of course, I will forgive them and I will be their God.
- Moses came back down the mountain (walk in place) and told the people all these things. All the people bowed down and worshiped the one true God. Let's bow down, fold our hands and worship the one true God.

Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

We worship only you. We worship only you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.

ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.

WORSHIP the ONE true GOD.

ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. ***Only worship God. Only worship God.**

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- *napkins*
- *cups and water*
- *any cracker that is golden in color*

Be aware of any food allergies children may have.

Today we are going to eat a snack. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

We worship only you. We worship only you.

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Today we are learning that Moses destroyed the golden calf that the people were worshiping.

Place a napkin on the table and pick up one cracker.

See this cracker? It is gold just like the golden calf that Moses destroyed. I am going to destroy this cracker just like Moses crushed the golden calf into powder.

Crush the cracker over the napkin.

Because God was with Moses, that's how easy it was for Moses to destroy the golden calf.

Pass out napkins, cups of water and some crackers for each child. You might want to let the children crush one of the crackers to help demonstrate the point.

You can eat your golden crackers now.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. ***Only worship God. Only worship God.**

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."

Supplies:

- copies of Appendix A
- glue sticks
- cotton balls
- crayons or markers

Today we are going to make a mountain covered in clouds, like the one Moses was on when he talked to God. First I want you to color your mountain. When you are finished with that, you can glue "clouds" (cotton balls stretched out so they are more airy) onto your mountain.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Only worship God. Only worship God.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.
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WORSHIP the ONE true GOD.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
We worship only you. We worship only you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Now we are going to play a game called *Are We Worshiping God?* God wants us to be good people and obey his rules. After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. Are we worshiping God when we keep our toys for ourselves? No, we are not. Let's pretend to give a toy to someone close to us.
2. Are we worshiping God when we listen to our mommies? Yes, we are. Let's pretend to listen to Mommy. Cup hand behind ear.
3. Are we worshiping God when we cry for a new toy at the store? No, we are not. Let's pretend to cry.
4. Are we worshiping God when we run to Daddy when he calls us? Yes, we are. Let's run from here to there (indicate a place) and then run back again.
5. Are we worshiping God when we get our new clothes all muddy? No, we are not. Let's pretend we are splashing in the mud.
6. Are we worshiping God when we help Mommy clean our room? Yes, we are. Let's pick up some pretend toys.
7. Are we worshiping God when we hit our sister? No, we are not. Let's pretend to hug our sister.
8. Are we worshiping God when we take a bath when Mommy tells us? Yes, we are. Let's pretend to splash water on each other.
9. Are we worshiping God when we keep getting out of bed? No, we are not. Let's pretend to sleep and snore.
10. Are we worshiping God when we ask a friend to go to church with us? Yes, we are. Let's fold our hands and bow our heads.

Movement Game

Supplies:

- beanbags
- two hula hoops

Place the two hula hoops about two feet apart and about 6 feet away from the children.

Today we are going to play a game called *Who Do We Worship?* This hoop is a golden calf (indicate one hoop). This other hoop stands for God. I want you to run up here and throw your beanbag in the hoop that stands for God.

Make sure all children get at least one turn. If they cannot remember the correct hoop, point it out for them.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Only worship God. Only worship God.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.
ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.
WORSHIP the ONE true GOD.
ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.**

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
We worship only you. We worship only you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the key words as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

See if you know the word I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event. If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.

Moses and the Israelites made camp by what? (*A mountain.*) Who called Moses up to the mountaintop to talk? (*God.*) How long was Moses on the mountain talking to God? (*40 days.*) Did the people remember God? (*No.*) What did the people turn their gold earrings into? (*A golden calf.*) The people worshiped the golden calf. Was God happy? (*No.*) Who is the only one we should worship? (*God.*)

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

**Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
We worship only you. We worship only you.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.**

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Farmer in the Dell*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

ON-ly WOR-ship GOD.

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Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me. *Only worship God. Only worship God.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.

Only Worship God

