The Golden Calf KZ Lesson

# Memory Verse: Exodus 20:3 (NKJV)

**3**“You shall have no other gods before Me.

Target Thought: God will always have first place in our heart and life.

(Explain to the kids that each time you hold up the statue that you brought with you, that 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. You will do this multiple times as you tell today’s lesson so encourage them to pay close attention.)

Who can tell me what this is? (Give time for answers.) That’s right, it’s a statue. (Hold it up and kids freeze.) How many of you have statues  (Hold it up and kids freeze.)  in your home? Have you ever seen any statues in parks? Perhaps you’ve seen a statue of a famous baseball player or an artist or author. Statues are fine unless they become something that we worship other than God.  (Hold it up and kids freeze.) When we do that, the statue becomes an idol that replaces our God. There should never be anything in our life that is more important to us than God.

That is what our Bible lesson is about this morning. Moses was up on a mountain called Mt. Sanai. I am sure that you remember that God had told Moses to go up on the mountain so that God could give him the Ten Commandments for the people to follow.

We are going to read the story from the Bible.

Exodus 32:1-14 (NKJV)

**32**Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for *as for* this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

**2**And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which *are* in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring *them* to me.” **3**So all the people broke off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* to Aaron. **4**And he received *the gold* from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, “This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

**5**So when Aaron saw *it,* he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow *is* a feast to the Lord.” **6**Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

**7**And the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted *themselves.*

**8**They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ” **9**And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it *is* a stiff-necked people! **10**Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

**11**Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said: “Lord, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? **12**Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. **13**Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit *it* forever.’ ” **14**So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Now Moses stayed up on the mountain longer than the people thought he should. (Hold it up and kids freeze.) 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. (Hold it up and kids freeze.) 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." (Hold it up and kids freeze.)

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.

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.

1. Should there ever be anything in our life more important to us than God?

2. Should we pray for other people, especially when we see that they are turning away from God?

3. Are we going to make sure that God always has first place in our life and that we never put anything before Him?