



Journey Church  
Trading Glory for Gold | Exodus 32-33  
January 4, 2026

### **When Waiting Reveals What We Trust**

*"What do you reach for when you're forced to wait and you can't fix the situation?"*

### **God's Story**

*Exodus 32-33*

### **What This Story Reveals About Us - and the God Who Still Draws Near:**

1. Impatience leads us to trade God's glory for what we can control

*Exodus 32:1–6 Romans 1:21-25; 1 Corinthians 10:1–22*

2. God's holiness takes sin seriously because His love is real

*Exodus 32:7–10; 25–29; 35; Ephesians 2:1-10*

3. God uses intercession to release mercy without compromising holiness

*Exodus 32:11–14; 30–34; 33; Psalm 106:19-23*

4. Jesus is the final intercessor who brings God's presence near

*Exodus 33; John 1:17; Hebrews 3-4; Romans 8:18–27*

### **Small Group Questions:**

1. “When you face waiting or uncertainty, what do you instinctively reach for to feel in control? How might these ‘substitutes’ distract you from trusting God’s presence?”
2. “Exodus 32 shows God’s anger and holiness in response to sin. How does knowing God takes sin seriously but still shows mercy shape the way you approach your own failings or the failings of others?”
3. “Who in your life might need someone to stand in the gap for them right now? How can your prayers reflect the intercession of Moses or the ultimate intercession of Jesus?”

### **Be Intentional:**

This week, identify one person who is struggling, distant from God, or stuck in a waiting season. Commit to pray for them daily, allowing the Spirit to intercede when you don’t know what to say. Record the person’s name or initials in a notebook, and bring your prayers before God as a tangible act of standing in the gap, trusting that your intercession participates in His mercy.

### **Pray:**

This week, identify one person who is struggling, distant from God, or stuck in a waiting season. Commit to pray for them daily, allowing the Spirit to intercede when you don’t know what to say. Record the person’s name or initials in a notebook, and bring your prayers before God as a tangible act of standing in the gap, trusting that your intercession participates in His mercy.