



Use Week of:

## Unit 6 • Session 1

# The Golden Calf

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 32; 34

**STORY POINT:** God is holy.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Exodus 15:2a

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God forgives anyone who trusts in Jesus.

### Bible Story for Toddlers

Moses was on top of Mount Sinai getting God's special rules. When Moses did not come down right away, the people told his brother Aaron to make a statue to worship. Aaron made a calf out of gold. The people worshiped the calf instead of God! God was angry. He said, "Go down the mountain. These people will not obey Me. I will make you a great nation instead." Moses reminded God of His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be their God. God punished the people for their wrong choice, but He promised not to leave them. Moses prayed for God to forgive the people, and God did.

### Babies Gospel Gems

- \* God's people worshiped a calf made of gold.
- \* Moses asked God to forgive the people.
- \* God forgives us through Jesus.

Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# BABIES Activities

## Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Exodus 32. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**SAY:** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. They said the calf was a god, but that was not true! Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives us through Jesus. **GOD IS HOLY.** [*Pray for the babies.*]

## Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb":

"Holy, holy is the Lord, is the Lord, is the Lord!  
Holy, holy is the Lord! He alone is God."

**SAY: GOD IS HOLY.** God always does what is right and good. When God's people worshiped a calf made of gold instead of God, Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives anyone who trusts in Jesus.

## Crumple gold paper

Provide shiny gold wrapping paper for babies to tear or crumple. Make sure babies do not put the wrapping paper in their mouths. Briefly review the Gospel Gems. You may also read the key passage card.

**SAY:** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. It is a wrong choice to worship anything other than God because only **GOD IS HOLY.** God forgives us through Jesus.

## Look at gold

Provide hand-sized clear plastic containers with gold items for babies to examine. Invite babies to handle the containers. Review the Gospel Gems.

**SAY:** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. It was not alive and powerful like God. They made a wrong choice! **GOD IS HOLY.** Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives us through Jesus.

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

# TODDLER Activities

## Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Exodus 32. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Story Point and Gospel Gems. Pray for the toddlers.

## Make golden art

Provide paper, gold foil stickers, golden crepe paper streamers, and glitter crayons for toddlers to decorate their paper. Write the Story Point with a golden gel pen. Briefly review the Bible story as toddlers work.

**SAY:** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold instead of the one true God. They made a very wrong choice. **GOD IS HOLY.** When we make wrong choices, God forgives us through Jesus.

## Search for gold coins

Provide plastic gold coins (large enough to not pose a choking hazard) or wrap flying discs in gold or yellow paper. Hide them in plain sight for toddlers to find.

**SAY:** While Moses was on the mountain, God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. That was a very wrong choice. Moses asked God to forgive the people. **GOD IS HOLY.** God forgives anyone who trusts in Jesus.

## Worship the one true God

Play worship songs and invite toddlers to move and dance to the music. Provide rhythm instruments and other noisemakers for toddlers to celebrate Jesus.

**SAY: GOD IS HOLY.** God is the one true God, and we praise Him for His love and His forgiveness. God forgives us through Jesus.

## Compare living and non-living things

Provide picture books about animals, plants, machines, and rocks. Invite toddlers to look through the books. Remind children that God is alive and a statue is not.

**SAY: GOD IS HOLY.** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. The calf was a statue. It was not alive, and it did not love or take care of God's people. Moses asked God to forgive the people. God forgives us through Jesus.

# BONUS Teaching Hour

**SESSION TITLE:** The Golden Calf

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Exodus 32; 34

**KEY PASSAGE:** Exodus 15:2a

**STORY POINT:** God is holy.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** God forgives anyone who trusts in Jesus.

## Transition activity: Smash idols

Invite toddlers to use play dough to make silly statues. Ask toddlers if their statues can move, talk, or help them. (No, they are not real.) Count to three and invite toddlers to smash their statues. Guide toddlers to say the Story Point. Review the Bible story.

**SAY:** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. They said the calf had brought them out of Egypt, but that was not true! God had saved His people. Moses asked God to forgive the people for their wrong choice. **GOD IS HOLY.** God forgives us through Jesus.

## Knock down golden calves

Print the "Golden Calf" printable and tape the calf cutout to an empty 2-liter bottle. Guide toddlers to line up. Give the first child a ball and invite her to roll it at the bottle to knock it down. Continue until each child has a turn. Say the Story Point every time the "statue" is knocked down.

**SAY: GOD IS HOLY.** God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. Moses asked God to forgive the people, and He did. God forgives anyone who trusts in Jesus.

## Play out camping

Drape a blanket over two chairs or the sides of a table. Provide toy dishes, toy lanterns, and other camping supplies. As toddlers camp, retell the Bible story.

**SAY:** God's people camped at the bottom of the mountain. God's people worshiped a calf made of gold. **GOD IS HOLY.** God forgives us through Jesus.

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, Story Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.