

# The Israelites Worship a Golden Calf

Exodus 32:1-25

Preschoolers have a natural sense of wonder that sometimes borders on worship. But they're able to understand that God is the one who created all those wonderful things. Use this lesson to direct children toward worshipping God alone.



► **Bible Point**  
Worship only God.

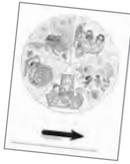
**Key Verse**  
"You shall have no other gods before me"  
(Exodus 20:3).

**Weaving Faith Into Life**  
Children will know God is the only God, and they'll worship only him.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b> Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome and Celebrate</b> Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, hand clackers</p>	
<p><b>2</b> Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Worship God Only</b> Play a game, and sing about putting God first.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	
<p><b>3</b> Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Puppy Pointers</b> Hear how Theo likes to sing and worship God.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, lyrics page, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>	<p>Print a page of lyrics from the Internet. Tape the lyrics page to Theo's paw.</p>
	<p><b>Bible Time: The Golden Calf</b> Make a calf from modeling dough, and then destroy it.</p>	<p>Bible, modeling dough</p>	

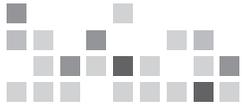
**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b> Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Center 1: Room Only for God</b> Make hearts with room for God alone.</p>	My Bible Hugs, scissors, card stock, glue sticks, red crayons	Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut one cross from card stock for each child, about 2 inches by 3 inches.
	<p><b>Center 2: Golden-Calf Snack</b> Create and eat golden calves.</p>	crispy-rice treats, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p><b>Center 3: Worship Any Time</b> Talk about worshipping God throughout the day.</p>	scissors, paper fastener <b>Teacher Pack: "Clock" picture</b> 	Follow the instructions on the "Clock" picture to make a clock.
	<p><b>Center 4: Crayon Worship Drawings</b> Make crafts to remind them to worship only God.</p>	cooking oil, cotton balls, hole punch, paper plates, yarn, scissors, crayons	For each child, punch a hole in a paper plate and thread yarn through the hole for hanging.
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b> Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p><b>Daily Challenge</b> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p><b>Action Prayer</b> Offer a prayer of worship.</p>		
	<p><b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.





## Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

### Teacher Pack

CD: "We're Glad" (track 9), "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10)

hand clackers

# 1 GETTING STARTED

## Welcome and Celebrate

**Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

### What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "We're Glad" (track 9 on the CD). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

**♪ We're glad to be at church.** (*make "thumbs up"*)  
**We have such fun at church.** (*shake hands above head*)  
**We sing and pray** (*make prayer hands*)  
**And learn God's way.** (*point to head*)  
**We're glad to be at church today!** (*make "thumbs up"*)  
*(Repeat 2x.)*

Say: **At church we get to worship God. And that's what we're learning about today—that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's worship God some more right now.**

Lead children in singing "Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) (track 10 on the CD). Have children share the hand clackers, taking turns making joyful noises with them between stanzas. Lead the other kids in clapping their hands or stomping their feet.

**♪ Let everything that moves,  
 And everything that breathes,  
 Praise the Lord.  
 Praise the Lord.**

**From the rising of the sun  
 'Til the time that it goes down,  
 Praise the Lord.  
 Praise the Lord.**

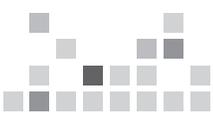
**Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!  
 Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.  
 Let everything that lives  
 Sing praises to the Lord.**

**Praise the Lord!**

**Let everything that walks,  
 And everything that runs,  
 Praise the Lord.  
 Praise the Lord.**

**No matter where you are,  
 No matter where you've been,  
 Praise the Lord.  
 Praise the Lord.**

**Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!  
 Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.**



Let everything that lives  
Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

Everybody, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord!  
Come on, let's prai-ai-aise the Lord.  
Let everything that lives

Let everything that lives  
Sing praises to the Lord.  
Praise the Lord!

"Praise the Lord" (Psalm 150:6) by Jay Stocker. © 2005 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Say: **Hallelujah is a fun word from the Bible. Say it with me: Hallelujah. Now shout it: Hallelujah! Hallelujah means "praise the Lord." When we say "hallelujah," we're worshipping God. Today we'll learn that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD because he made everything.**

**2** KEY VERSE  
ACTIVITY

## Worship Only God

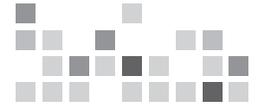
### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Exodus 20:3, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). This means God is number one in our lives. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"Have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Have two children stand and face each other with their hands together over their heads as in the game London Bridge. Play "Worship God Only" (track 15 on the CD) to the tune of "Pop! Goes the Weasel." Direct the other children to form a line and take turns walking under the "bridge" during the song. At the end of each stanza, have the children playing the bridge drop their arms to choose a friend. Then let children switch roles.

 **"Have no other gods before me."**  
**This is what God tells us.**  
**God wants to be first in our lives.**  
**Worship God only.**  
*(Repeat 2x.)*



### Worship Only God Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Worship God Only" (track 15)





### Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player  
Theo puppet  
lyrics page  
tape

#### Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"  
(track 3)

### Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Print a page of lyrics  
from the Internet. Tape  
the lyrics page to Theo's  
paw.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **God wants us to choose him just as you chose friends during our game. God tells us to love him more than anything. We must ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.** Today we'll hear how God's people learned this when they made a mistake.

## 3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppy Pointers

## What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

**Theo:** Hi, everybody!

**Teacher:** Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

**Theo:** I brought a song I like to sing.

**Teacher:** Did you want to sing for us, Theo?

**Theo:** Well, I heard you singing and I thought you might want this song to worship God.

**Teacher:** Oh, thank you, Theo! We were singing. And now we're going to hear about a different way that people worshipped in the Bible.

**Theo:** How's that?

**Teacher:** Actually, they were bowing down to a gold cow.

**Theo:** Really? Do you mean like this? (*Bows a few times.*)

**Teacher:** Yes, they were worshipping it, but God told them it was important that they only worship him, the real, true God. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.*)

**Theo:** Would you mind if I come sing with you next time you worship God?

**Teacher:** Good idea, Theo. We'd love to have you.

**Theo:** Great! I better go home now.

**Teacher:** Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What things do you love to do as much as Theo loves to sing?
- Explain whether you love those things more than you love God.
- What can you do to show God you love him most?

Say: **Theo learned that we put God first. We can love lots of things, but we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's hear more about that.**

## Bible Time: The Golden Calf

### What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Exodus 32, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll learn what it means to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Give each child a lump of modeling dough. As you talk, have children make jewelry such as rings and earrings with the dough.

Say: **A leader named Moses went up the mountain to talk with God. He was gone for a really, really long time—so long that God's people didn't know what happened to Moses. They didn't want to wait for Moses anymore, so they asked his brother, Aaron, to make a new god for them.**

Invite each child to show off what he or she made. Then say: **Have you ever made anything with your own hands that had as much power as God? Well, neither had Aaron or any of the other Israelites. But Aaron told the Israelites to bring him all their gold jewelry.** Have the children pile all the "jewelry" together.

Say: **Aaron melted the gold jewelry.** Invite the children to help you smash all the "jewelry" into one big blob. **Then he formed it into the shape of a calf, which is a baby cow.** Mold the clay into a calf. **The Israelites threw a big party for the golden calf, and they worshipped it instead of God.** Hold up the calf. Then invite the children to explain whether they think the calf you molded could help them.

Say: **God knew what the people did, and he was angry. He let Moses go down the mountain to talk to the Israelites. Moses was mad, too, because God had said to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. But the people were acting like the pretend cow was better than God! Moses put the golden calf into a fire until it burned up.** Let the children take turns smashing the calf until it's flat. Make sure every child gets a turn to help.

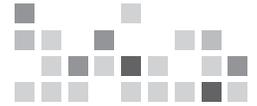
Say: **Moses taught the people that the golden calf wasn't a real god. Our God is the only real God, and he made us and always takes care of us. No one and nothing can take care of us like God does.**

### Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

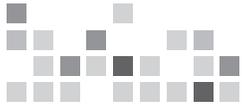
Ask:

- **What did you think of the golden calf?**
- **What's wrong with worshipping the calf?**
- **Why do you ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD?**



### Bible Time: The Golden Calf Supplies

Bible  
modeling dough



### Center 1: Room Only for God Supplies

My Bible Hugs  
scissors  
card stock  
glue sticks  
red crayons

### Center 1: Room Only for God Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 6 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Cut one cross from card stock for each child, about 2 inches by 3 inches.

Say: **God made us. God made the world. God loves us and cares for us like no one else can. No one is more important than God. That's why we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

## 4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

### ■ CENTER 1:

## Room Only for God

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 6 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we're learning that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Unlike God's people did, we don't want to worship a golden cow or anything except the one true God. Let's make something to remind us to worship God.**

Show the children how to use glue sticks to glue the cross shapes inside the hearts on the My Bible Hugs pages. Give each child a red crayon. Have the children each color the heart in completely, coloring over the cross as well. Caution the children to color lightly so they won't move the cross from its place.

Say: **We don't know what God looks like, so we often use a cross to show we are thinking of God. When we love God, it's as if God lives right inside our hearts. Right now, the hearts on your papers are empty. Let's change that and show that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

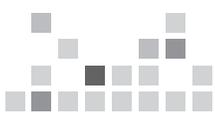
Show the children how to carefully peel the crosses off the hearts. When children have finished, they'll have red hearts with white crosses inside.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What are some ways you can show God he's inside your heart?**



Say: **We ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD** because he made us, he loves us, and he cares for us like no one else can! God deserves all our worship, love, and thanks. Like the crosses inside our hearts on our My Bible Hugs pages, God is number one in our hearts.

**CENTER 2:**

## Golden-Calf Snack

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **God's people made a golden cow to worship.**

Give each child a crispy-rice treat or a graham cracker. Let the children use their teeth to shape "golden cows" out of the bars. Even though children may not be able to perfectly create cow shapes from the treats, they'll have fun enjoying their snack while reviewing what happened in the Bible.

Invite the children to show the golden cows they created. Then say: **Remember, God wants us to worship no one except him.** Have the children repeat the Key Verse with you: **"Have no gods before me" (Exodus 20:3).**

Say: **These crispy-rice cows are nothing to worship. They're just food.** Let the children eat the rest of their treats.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Like we ate the rest of our crispy-rice cows, Moses destroyed the golden calf because the people were worshipping it. God tells us that we should ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. Let's remember to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD this week.**

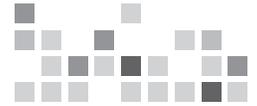
**CENTER 3:**

## Worship Any Time

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Bible Point tells us to ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. But just because we only worship God doesn't mean we can't worship him in different ways or at different times. Let's play a game to learn some different times we can worship God.**

Using the "Clock" picture, have children take turns setting the clock's hand to a different time of day. First have children identify the setting, and then have them share what they can worship God for at that time. For example, at the park, children can worship God for creating trees; at dinner, children can worship God for providing food.



### Center 2: Golden-Calf Snack Supplies

crispy-rice treats  
antibacterial gel  
(optional)

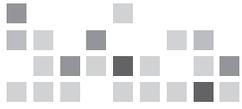
**! ALLERGY ALERT**

### Center 3: Worship Any Time Supplies

scissors  
paper fastener  
**Teacher Pack**  
"Clock" picture

### Center 3: Worship Any Time Easy Prep

Follow the instructions on the "Clock" picture to make a clock.



#### Center 4: Crayon Worship Drawings Supplies

cooking oil  
cotton balls  
hole punch  
paper plates  
yarn  
scissors  
crayons

#### Center 4: Crayon Worship Drawings Easy Prep

For each child, punch  
a hole in a paper plate  
and thread yarn through  
the hole for hanging.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What are some ways you'll worship God this week?

Say: **God made everything, is greater than anything or anyone, and never does anything wrong. When we look around, we see all the good things God has made. That's why we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. And we can worship him anytime, anywhere.**

### ■ CENTER 4:

## Crayon Worship Drawings

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **God wants us to worship only him. We're going to make some beautiful drawings that you can hang in your bedroom windows. As you create your picture, worship God and tell him you love him and will ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Encourage your children to draw freely, pressing hard with the different colors of crayons on one side of the paper plates. Encourage them to fill in as much of the white areas as possible with the colors.

As each child finishes filling his or her plate, put some cooking oil on a cotton ball for him or her. Show children how to turn over their plates and rub oil on the backsides until the crayon shines through.

Have children clean their hands and then have them hold the plates up to a light. Say: **The light shines through your plate, just as God's love shines through when we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **We can ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD through everything we do each day. There are lots of different ways to worship God. We can worship God when we sing, run and play, or make things for others. When we worship only God, it's beautiful, and it shines through so others can see God, too. Hang your plate in your room to remind you of this.**

## 5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that we ► WORSHIP ONLY GOD. I would like each of you to choose a way to worship God this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Take turns blowing and popping bubbles with a friend or sibling. Each time you pop a bubble, praise God for something wonderful he has done in your life.**
- **Sing a worship song to God.**

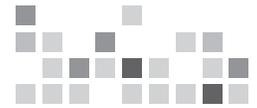
Say: **If you want to blow bubbles, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to sing, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

### Action Prayer

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children stand in a circle, and explain that they're to say "We worship only you" after you say each line of the following prayer.

**God, you made everything.** (*We worship only you.*)  
**God, you are greater than anyone or anything.** (*We worship only you.*)  
**God, you care for us.** (*We worship only you.*)  
**God, you are never wrong.** (*We worship only you.*)  
**God, you give us what we need.** (*We worship only you.*)  
**Thank you, God.** (*We worship only you.*)  
**In Jesus' name, amen.**



#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs



## Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).