

LESSON 3

THE GOLDEN CALF

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: We Can Worship God

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 32

GOD'S BIG STORY: While Moses listens to God on the mountain, the Israelites become restless and fashion a golden calf and worship it—yet God is faithful and shows only He is worthy of worship.

WORD OF WONDER: God is faithful. That's who He is. —from 2 Timothy 2:13

Object Lesson: Exploring Jewelry

Activity: Creative Worship

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Praise Dance

Object Lesson: Exploring Jewelry

SUPPLIES: various shiny objects (such as toy jewelry, jewels, gems)

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Welcome! We're going to talk today about when some people used beautiful jewelry to make a statue. And this statue made God sad. We'll learn all about it in our story. Let's look at some jewelry and get curious.

Show the kids a variety of play jewelry, gems, or jewels. Let them feel them and look at them. Ask them what they see. Ask them what the jewels feel like. Be sure to use items that are large enough that they can't be swallowed. Watch kids closely and be aware of any choking hazards.

Activity: Creative Worship

SUPPLIES: Bible, coloring utensils, paper, colorful scarves, music shakers

In God's big story today, we'll talk about how we can worship God. Worshiping God means showing Him we love Him and telling Him how wonderful He is.

Give kids a variety of items to share throughout the activity. Invite kids to use the items in different ways to worship God.

Items can include the following:

- Bible (reading about God)
- Coloring utensils and paper (coloring)
- Colorful scarves (dancing)
- Music shakers (playing music)

We can worship God in lots of ways! We can tell Him that we love Him and that He is amazing. We'll learn more about it today in our story. Our Wonder Truth today is: WE CAN WORSHIP GOD.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

WE—Point to yourself.

CAN WORSHIP—Cup hands around mouth.

GOD—Point up.

Worship

Today we're learning that we can worship God! We'll learn in God's big story how God is always faithful. He always keeps His promises, and we can worship Him. God is powerful and strong, and He loves us! Let's sing a song to praise God!

Play songs from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [The Golden Calf God's Big Story Video](#), Bible Story Picture (optional)

Our part of God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about God's people and a leader named Moses. Encourage the kids to say, "Moses." Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Moses and God's people.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, or read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

While I tell the story, you can help by acting out some parts of the story when I tell you to. God did amazing things for His people. Moses and God's people made a promise to worship God.

Have kids lift their hands up high. **Moses went up to the top of a mountain to listen to God.** Have kids pretend to climb a mountain. **Moses was gone a long time. God's people didn't know what to do.** Have kids walk around the room looking for something. **Then God's people wanted to worship something they could see. Moses' brother Aaron made a statue, or idol, out of jewelry. God's people broke their promise and they worshiped the statue.** Encourage kids to make a sad face with you.

The people said they would only worship God, but they worshiped an idol instead of God. This was a bad choice, and it made God very upset.

But God is faithful and He loves His people. He didn't give up on them. God always keeps His promises and He loves us. Encourage kids to make a happy face with you. **We can worship God and show Him He is the best!**

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

You know me, love me, and lead me too. kids repeat

Please help me follow You. kids repeat

Thank you for snacks so yummy. kids repeat

That fill my happy tummy! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

God is faithful. That's who He is.

—from 2 Timothy 2:13

Our Word of Wonder for the Think Again series is from 2 Timothy 2:13. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Open a Bible to 2 Timothy 2:13 and practice the verse with the kids.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **IS FAITHFUL**—Give two thumbs-up (one on each word).
- **THAT'S WHO**—Put your arms out in front of you, palms up (one on each word).
- **HE IS**—Point up (once on each word).
- **FROM 2 TIMOTHY 2:13**—Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "love," give yourself a hug. When I say, "worship," lift your hands up high.

God, we love (give yourself a hug) **You! Thank You for loving** (give yourself a hug) **us. We'll worship** (arms above your head) **You and only You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you know that God is always faithful and He always keeps His promises. May you know that He loves you, and you can worship Him. May you know God and love Him more and more.

Activity: Praise Dance

SUPPLIES: variety of musical instruments

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: music from the [Think Again Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Today we learned we can worship God. God is always with us and always loves us. Let's worship God by dancing and playing music! Remember, we can always worship God! Worshiping God is telling Him that we love Him and that He's wonderful. Play some instruments or sing and dance to worship God.

Give kids musical instruments and encourage them to dance to the music as they praise God. You can play music from the playlist.