



Lesson 17

Psalm 78:58

They [the Israelites] made God angry by going to their high places. They made Him jealous by worshipping the statues of their gods.

Israel Worships a Golden Calf

Read Exodus 32:1–35 (New International Reader's Version)

- 1 What was bothering the people of Israel? The people were bothered that Moses was taking a _____ time to come down from the mountain. (Ex. 32:1)
- 2 Were the people worried that Moses was hurt? (Yes/No) _____. They were only worried about **thems**_____.
- 3 What did the people want? They wanted _____ to make them a _____ that would _____ them. (Ex. 32:1)
- 4 What title did the people use to talk about Moses? They called him “_____ Moses” (not “our leader Moses”). (Ex. 32:1)
- 5 How did Aaron respond to the people’s sinful request? Aaron answered the people by telling them to _____ the _____ earrings off their wives, sons, and daughters, and to _____ those items to him. (Ex. 32:2)



Sadly, Aaron gave in too easily to peer pressure. That is probably why God called Moses, not Aaron, to lead Israel.

- 6 What did Aaron do with all the gold earrings the people brought him? Aaron took the earrings and made them into a metal _____ of a _____ in the shape of a _____. _____ shaped the statue with a _____. (Ex. 32:4)



It must have taken a considerable amount of time for Aaron to make this statue.

- 7 What did the people of Israel do with the statue Aaron made? The people presented it to themselves and said, "Here is your _____ who _____ you up _____ of Egypt." (Ex. 32:4)



Seriously?

- 8 When Aaron saw what the people were doing, what else did he build with his talented hands? He built an _____ in _____ of the calf. (Ex. 32:5)
- 9 How did Aaron try to make this sinful act seem godly? He announced that the next day would be a _____ day to _____ the _____. (Ex. 32:5)



I guess Aaron *tried* to steer the people back to the Lord, but I'm not sure how Aaron thought the Lord would feel honoured while His people were worshipping a false god.

- 10 Were the people excited about this feast day? (Yes/No) _____. The people got up _____ and _____ burnt _____ and brought _____ offerings to the powerless statue Aaron had made. (Ex. 32:6)
- 11 What did the people do after they sat down to eat and drink? The people got up to _____ in _____ of their speechless god. (Ex. 32:6)
- 12 Did the Lord see what was happening? (Yes/No) _____. (Ex. 32:7)
- 13 How did the Lord describe the people of Israel? The Lord described them as having become _____ sinful. (Ex. 32:7)
- 14 Had the Lord warned the Israelites, several times, not to make statues of gods for themselves to bow down to and worship? (Yes/No) _____.
- 15 Were these warnings not long ago? (Yes/No) _____. The people had _____ turned away from what the Lord had commanded them. (Ex. 32:8)
- 16 What did the Lord say He was going to do to these people? Why? The Lord was going to _____ them, because of His great and holy _____. (Ex. 32:10)
- 17 Whom was the Lord going to make into a great nation instead? The Lord was going to make _____ into a great nation instead. (Ex. 32:10)
- 18 Was Moses happy he wouldn't have to lead these stubborn people anymore? (Yes/No) _____. (Ex. 32:11)



Moses had really changed! It was not long ago, at the burning bush, that Moses had tried very hard to convince the Lord to give the job of leading the Israelites to someone else.

- 19 How did Moses actually respond to the Lord? Moses asked the Lord to have _____ on the people. (Ex. 32:11)
- 20 After Moses showed his love for the people of Israel, what did the Lord do? The Lord took _____ on His people and _____ destroy them as He had said He was going to. (Ex. 32:14)



Moses passed the test, which showed why the Lord had called Moses to be the leader of the people of Israel. Moses put the people before himself.

- 21 Did Joshua know why the people were making so much noise? (Yes/No) _____. Joshua thought it sounded like _____ in the camp. (Ex. 32:17)
- 22 What did Moses do when he saw the calf and the people dancing? Moses got _____ angry and _____ the stone _____ out of his hands, causing the tablets to _____ into _____ at the foot of the mountain. (Ex. 32:19)
- 23 What did Moses do with the calf the people had made? Moses _____ the calf, _____ in it the fire, ground it into _____, _____ it on the _____, and made the Israelites _____ it. (Ex. 32:20)
- 24 When Moses asked Aaron how the people had made him lead them into such terrible sin, did Aaron say he was sorry and take responsibility? (Yes/No) _____. Aaron blamed it all on the _____, even though he had been put in charge of them. (Ex. 32:22–24)
- 25 Did Aaron lie about how the calf was made? (Yes/No) _____. Aaron said he threw the people's gold jewellery into the fire and _____ came the _____, like magic! (Ex. 32:24)



Really, Aaron?

- 26 What had the people become to their enemies? Why? The people had become a _____ to their enemies, because Aaron had let them get _____ of _____. (Ex. 32:25)
- 27 When Moses stood at the entrance of the camp and said, "Anyone on the Lord's side, come to me," how many of those who didn't come died? About _____ of those who didn't come to Moses died by the sword that day. (Ex. 32:26, 28)



They chose not to be on the Lord's side.

Joshua 24:14–15

“So have respect for the Lord. Serve Him. Be completely faithful to Him.... Choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve.... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

- 28) Just like the people of Israel, what decision do you have to make? I have to _____ for myself whether or not I will _____ the Lord and be _____ faithful to Him.
- 29) Which of the people joined Moses to be on the Lord's side? All the _____ (those who belonged to the tribe of Levi) joined Moses. (Ex. 32:26)
- 30) What happened to the rest of the people (those who refused to be on the Lord's side)? Moses commanded the _____ to go back and forth among the rest and start killing them. (Ex. 32:27–28)
- 31) What was Moses willing to have the Lord do if the Lord would not forgive the people's terrible sin? Moses was willing to have the Lord _____ Moses' name out of the book the Lord had written. (Ex. 32:32)
- 32) What did the Lord reply to Moses? The Lord told Moses that He would _____ out of His _____ the names of _____ who had _____ Him. (Ex. 32:33)
- 33) What did the Lord tell Moses to do? The Lord told Moses to _____ and _____ the people to the _____ the Lord had spoken about. (Ex. 32:34)
- 34) Who would go ahead of Moses and the people? The Lord's _____ would go ahead of them. (Ex. 32:34)
- 35) What else did the Lord do to the people of Israel to punish them for worshipping the calf Aaron had made? The Lord struck them with a _____. (Ex. 32:35)

How did the Holy Spirit speak to you this week as you studied these Bible verses? In other words, what did you learn this week from reading God's Word?
