

# LESSON 10

## MOUNT SINAI

### Worksheets

- Bible Discovery Worksheet, Pages 1 and 2: Mount Sinai
- Life Application Worksheet #1: My Golden Calf
- Life Application Worksheet #2: Praying for Others
- Homework

## MOUNT SINAI

### PART 1: WAITING FOR GOD

We're often told that Jesus' Second Coming will be soon, that it could happen at any moment. But as the days slowly pass by, it's difficult to really imagine it coming soon. And with all of the world's distractions, it's easy to lose our vigilance and turn our attention to things more immediate and closer at hand.

1. What are some things that might distract us from waiting for God?
  
2. What are some ways to keep our focus on God and avoid a potential "golden calf" in our lives?
  
3. Read the following verse and write it down below: Colossians 3:2-3

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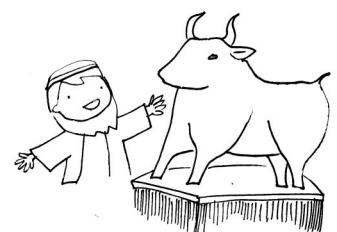
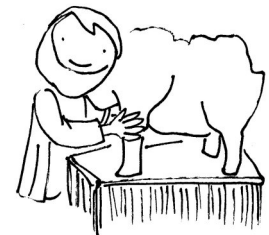


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### PART 2: MAKING EXCUSES

A key figure in this story who we haven't really talked about is Aaron. Let's take a closer look at him by going through the verses and filling in the table below.

The Israelites' Actions	Aaron's Reaction
They demanded that Aaron "make [them] gods that shall go before us." (Ex 32:1)	Aaron told them to... (Ex 32:2)
The Israelites obeyed Aaron and did as he asked. (Ex 32:3)	Aaron took what they gave and... (Ex 32:4)
The Israelites told one another that this was their gods who brought them up out of Egypt. (Ex 32:4)	Aaron saw this and... (Ex 32:5)



From examining this chart, we can see that although the Israelites were the ones who turned away from God, it was Aaron who came up with the idea of the golden calf and Aaron who encouraged them by even building an altar! Yet, what was his response to Moses when he came down and demanded why Aaron had done such a thing? Read the following verse and then answer the questions below: Exodus 32:21-24.

1. What was Aaron's excuse for his actions?
2. Who was Aaron trying to blame for the decisions that he made?



Aaron tried to blame others for the decisions that were clearly his own. He refused to take responsibility for his own actions. This may seem like the easy way out, but in truth, God loves those who truly repent for their sins. This means identifying our sin, acknowledging it, and praying for forgiveness while determining to do our best not to do it again.

1. Read the following verse and write it down below: 2 Peter 3:9

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### PART 3: THE POWER OF INTERCESSION

When Moses interceded for the Israelites, what made his prayers so effective? Let's examine his prayers in detail.

#### Intercession #1 (Ex 32:11-14)

There were three main points in this prayer. Read the verses carefully and try to pick them out as a group. Hints have been given below.

1. The Lord...
2. The Egyptians...
3. Remember...

#### Intercession #2 (Ex 32:31-32)

What did Moses offer as the Israelites' atonement?

#### Intercession #3 (Ex 33:15-17)

Moses told God that the people would not go anywhere unless...

In summary, in Moses' first prayer, all of his points focused on God's glory and honor, not on the Israelites or Moses himself. Moses was zealous for God's will.

In his second prayer, Moses was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of God's people. He made a selfless offer that showed his love.

In his third prayer, Moses made an ultimatum; their journey of faith could not continue without God. Moses showed his strong desire to stay with God and follow Him to the end.

In other words, Moses showed **zeal, love, and faith**. These were all elements that made his prayers successful.

### My Golden Calf

The Golden Calf was created by the Israelites because they had forgotten about God. Today, we are the spiritual Israelites, which means that we must remain separate and holy. We may not be creating a golden calf or an actual idol today, but there are other things that act like a golden calf in our lives. We need to know what they are and must destroy it, just as Moses did.

Read each scenario and answer the questions.



Every day after school, the very first thing Justin does is watch cartoons on TV. Then, he plays video games. Afterwards, he starts on his homework until dinner. He plays on his tablet while eating dinner. After dinner, he plays more games with his siblings. Then, he reads his favorite book before going to bed.

What are the "idols"?	How can he make time for God?

Gary reads a lot of superhero comics and loves watching cartoons and movies about them. Gary's room has several posters of these superheroes and has lots of their action figures and toys all over his shelves. In school, he loves sharing the comics with his friends and enjoys talking to his friends about all the cool powers the superheroes have.



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#### False Gods

So how do we cast down our idols? The first step is knowing what they are. An idol can be anything—it can be a person, an activity, or an object. The easiest way to identify if something is an idol is to ask yourself if this thing **makes you choose to spend time away from God**, or if it **makes you forget about God**.

Once we are aware of an idol, it is important to take steps to reduce its influence in our lives. Spend less time with your idol and more time with God. We must constantly strive to "sanctify the Lord God" (1 Pet 3:15) in our lives, which means prioritizing God over our personal idols so that they are no longer idols, but simply harmless hobbies.

#### Think & Discuss

1. Do you have any idols in your life?
2. What are some ways you can work to remove these idols?



