God of Wonders Part 2: Genesis through Joshua  
Unit 9, Lesson 44

The Golden Calf
Lesson Aim: To know our holy God requires us to be holy and obey the Ten Commandments.

The Worship
Who God is: The God Who Sends

The Word
Bible Story: Exodus 20:3-8, 12-21; 32:1-4, 7-8, 19-20, 25-26
What He has done: God sent the Ten Commandments so the Israelites could be His people.
Key Verse: Exodus 32:19

The Way
Christ Connection: Matthew 22:37-39

Bible Memory Verse
“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

| Unit 9: The God Who Sends |  |
|----------------------------|  |
| **Bible Story** | **What He Has Done** | **Lesson Aim** |
| 43 | God Sends Manna and Quail, Exodus 16:4-5, 11-16, 19-20, 27-32, 35 | God sent manna and quail so His people would survive in the wilderness. | To trust God enough to obey His instructions. |
| 44 | The Golden Calf, Exodus 20:3-8, 12-21; 32:1-4, 7-8, 19-20, 25-26 | God sent the Ten Commandments so the Israelites could be His people. | To know our holy God requires us to be holy and obey the Ten Commandments. |
| 45 | The Wilderness: Water from the Rock, Numbers 20:1-13 | God sent water from a rock to quench the Israelites’ thirst. | To know when we trust and obey God with our words and actions, we are honoring Him. |
| 46 | Promised Land: Rahab and the Spies, Joshua 2:2-15, 17, 21, 23-24 | God sent salvation through Rahab. | To see salvation comes to all who believe, so we must spread the word. |
| 47 | Joshua and Jericho, Joshua 6:1-5, 8, 10, 14-16, 20, 23 | God sent Joshua and His people to conquer Jericho. | To trust God to do the impossible to accomplish His plan. |

Teacher’s Encouragement
This week, read Deuteronomy 30:1-10. Please join us in praying, “Thank You, Lord, for the Ten Commandments. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might help instill in the children a love for Your law. Amen.”
### Segment | Minutes | Activity | Supplies
--- | --- | --- | ---
**The Welcome** | Up to 15 | Meet & Greet | None
Game: Obey Ball | Foam or inflatable ball, long rope
**The Worship** | Up to 20 | Worship | Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song:
“For God So Loved the World”
Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:
“Praise the Lord, O My Soul”
“I Will Always Obey Your Law”
Additional Hymn Suggestions:
“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
“‘Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”
Additional Song Collection Suggestions:
Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
Worship Scripture Reading:
Psalm 119:105 | Bible
Offering | Baskets
Worship Illustration | Lesson 44 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
**The Word** | Up to 10 | Read the Word: Exodus 20:3-8, 12-21; 32:1-4, 7-8, 19-20, 25-26 | Map—Sinai Peninsula, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
**The Way** | Up to 25 | Discussion | Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
**GOT TIME?** | Up to 10 | Snack: Ten Crackers | Ten small crackers for each child
Up to 10 | Game: The Commandment Connection | Treasure Treat (list of Ten Commandments with explanation of each commandment), poster board or large paper
Up to 10 | Craft: Commandment Scroll | For each child (standard-size sheet of white paper, ribbon, piece of sponge), for the group (12 teabags, 1 1/2 quarts of hot water, bowls, napkins or paper towels)
Up to 10 | Discussion: Commandments 1-4 | Bible or a list of the Ten Commandments
Up to 5 | Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave | Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
Up to 5 | Bible Memory Verse Activity: Manna Scrambler | Large container for the manna jar, paper, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song “For God So Loved the World,” CD player, Bible or Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster
Up to 5 | Bible Timeline Review | Timeline

### Resources:
Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.
Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today’s question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the kindest thing you have done for a neighbor?

GAME: OBEY BALL
Purpose: Children will play a version of volleyball while reviewing the importance of obedience.
Supplies: Foam or inflatable ball, long rope
Prepare: Lay the rope on the ground to create a straight line through the middle of your play area.

In our Bible Story, we will discover God sent the Ten Commandments to the Israelites. The Ten Commandments were the rules the Israelites needed to follow and obey God. They made a covenant (agreement) with Him to promise they would obey His rules.

Let’s play a game to practice obeying the rules. I will tell you the game rules. When I finish, let’s shake hands and agree to obey the rules while we play.

Directions:
1. Divide the class into two teams.
2. Read the following rules. Afterward, have the children shake hands with the opposite team and agree to follow the rules.
   OBEY-BALL Rules:
   • Players must stay sitting on the floor unless retrieving the ball from out-of-bounds.
   • Out-of-bounds is any area beyond the reach of the seated players.
   • One player begins the game by tossing the ball into the air.
   • That team must hit the ball to get it over the rope line.
   • The other team must try to hit the ball back over the rope line.
   • Continue until a team hits the ball out-of-bounds or the ball hits the floor. In either case, the other team gets a point and starts the next round.
   • Do not “spike” the ball. (Hitting the ball hard at someone else.)
   • Do not catch the ball.
3. Seat the teams on opposite sides of the rope line facing each other.
4. You may wish to play for a predetermined number of points or set amount of time.
5. When the game is complete or the time is up, ask the following questions:
   • Why do we need rules to play the game? (So the game is fair and safe.)
   • Why do our parents give us rules to follow? (Because they love and care for us. To keep us safe. They want our relationships to grow and be protected.)
The God who sends

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting the offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

Worship in the Tabernacle: During each lesson of Unit 9, we will incorporate an element of the tabernacle during worship. Today’s element is the golden lampstand as described in Exodus 25:31-40.

We worship God for who He is and what He has done. God sent the Ten Commandments so the Israelites could be His people, His treasured possession. Today, all who believe in Jesus are God’s people; we are His treasures. Obeying God’s commandments shows Him our love.

Moses and the Israelites worshiped God in the tabernacle, a large tent they took everywhere as a place to meet with God. In the tabernacle, there was a golden lampstand. It was there to remind the people that God gives us light, the light of His truth. Choose a volunteer to read Psalm 119:105. “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”

In the wilderness, the Ten Commandments were like a light which showed the Israelites how to be God’s holy people. Today, our light is not only God’s Word but also Jesus Himself. He is the Light of the world.

Sing Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song: “For God So Loved the World.”

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God’s holiness.

Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 9, Lesson 44.
The people worship the golden calf

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children’s focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God’s Word, let’s go over our Class Covenant.** A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: “I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God’s Word; knowing God is my goal.”

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the **GOT TIME?** segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned God sent manna and quail so the Israelites would not be hungry. Today, we will discover God sent the Ten Commandments to the Israelites so they could be His people. This happened when they arrived at Mt. Sinai, three months after the people left Egypt.** If a map is available, point to Mt. Sinai at the south end of the Sinai Peninsula.

Let’s play **Find It First!** Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today’s Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Exodus 20:3-8, 12-21; 32:1-4, 7-8, 19-20, 25-26. **Let’s see who can Find Exodus 32:19 First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let’s highlight our Key Verse: Exodus 32:19.**

Before we read, let’s stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. Be seated.

God promised the Israelites would be His treasured possession if they obeyed Him. They saw Moses meet with God in a cloud on Mt. Sinai. **Afterward, Moses gave them the Ten Commandments.** Read Exodus 20:3-8, 12-21.

**While Moses was in the cloud on Mt. Sinai getting more laws from God, the people became impatient.** Read Exodus 32:1-4, 7-8, 19, 20, 25-26.

Soon after this, God replaced the broken Ten Commandment tablets. He gave new tablets to Moses for the people to follow and obey.
What made the people afraid after Moses came down the mountain to give them the Ten Commandments? (Thunder, lightning, a trumpet and the mountain in smoke.) Moses said God was testing them. What was their fear supposed to keep them from doing? (Sinning.) When Moses went back up the mountain, what did the people do? (They made a golden idol in the shape of a calf.) What is an idol? (Anything more important to us than God.) What did they do with the idol? (They worshiped it.) Why would God be angry with them for worshiping the golden calf? (God wants us to only worship Him.) Which of the Ten Commandments did they disobey? (Commandment 1: “You shall have no other gods before Me,” and Commandment 2: “You shall not bow down to idols or worship them.”)

What are some things we sometimes treat as more important than God? (Examples: Friends, sports, celebrities, clothes, games, toys.) Are these things bad? (No, we can still enjoy them.) How can we make sure they do not become more important to us than God? (Put God first. Do not let them keep us from learning about and worshiping God.)

What did Moses do with the golden calf? (He burned it, ground it into powder, and made the people drink it in their water.) What happens when we disobey our parents or teachers? (We are corrected or disciplined.) Why are we disciplined for disobeying? (To help us remember what is right and to protect us.) God gives us rules and disciplines us when we disobey because He loves and cares for us.

What did Moses ask God to do for His people? (Forgive them.) What happened when Moses said, “Whoever is for the Lord come to me.” (The Levites came to him.) God gave His people a new set of Ten Commandment tablets so they could try again to be obedient. God gives us another chance to obey Him, too. Let’s review the Ten Commandments. Distribute today’s Ten Commandments Treasure Treat. One at a time, read each commandment, have the children repeat it after you, and discuss examples.

Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Many years after God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments, Jesus gave us two commandments that summarize the ten.


If you obey the two commandments Jesus gave us, you will also be obeying the Ten Commandments. What is the first commandment Jesus gave? (Love God with all of your heart, soul, and mind.) Look at the Ten Commandments. Which ones teach us to love God? (Commandments 1-4.) What is the second commandment from Jesus? (Love your neighbor as yourself.) Who is our neighbor? (Everyone in the world.) Which of the Ten Commandments teach us to love our neighbor? (Commandments 5-10.)
THE WAY continued...

Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God’s throne. I will lift each one of your names to God’s throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let’s pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

**FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a copy of the Ten Commandments. Keep it as a reminder that God sent the Ten Commandments to the Israelites so they could be His people.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 44 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week’s Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let’s make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song, “For God So Loved the World,” in the background as children wait to be dismissed.
If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: TEN CRACKERS
Purpose: To enjoy a snack break while introducing the lesson.
Snack Suggestion: Ten small crackers for each child

God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses and the Israelites. God gave these very special rules to them and to us, so we can love God and one another well. As a reminder of the Ten Commandments, each of you will receive ten crackers for your snack.

Directions:
1. Give each child ten crackers and a drink.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, read the Ten Commandments along with the explanation from your Treasure Treat.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **What do you think is the most challenging commandment to obey?**

GAME: THE COMMANDMENT CONNECTION
Purpose: To help children remember the Ten Commandments by sorting them into two categories.
Supplies: Treasure Treat (list of Ten Commandments with an explanation of each commandment), two pieces of poster board or large paper

Prepare: Print **LOVE THE LORD** on one poster board and **LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR** on the other. Post the LOVE THE LORD poster at one end of the play area and the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR poster at the other end of the play area.

Let’s see if you can figure out how Jesus’ two commandments connect best with the Ten Commandments. I will say one of the Ten Commandments. If you think obeying that commandment means you are also obeying Jesus’ command to love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, and mind, go and stand under the LOVE THE LORD poster. If you think that commandment will help you love your neighbor as yourself, go and stand under the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR poster.

Directions:
1. Read one of the Ten Commandments (out of order).
2. Children run to the LOVE THE LORD poster if the commandment connects best with “Love the Lord...” or to the LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR poster if it connects best with “Love your neighbor...”
3. Discuss each choice and the suggested connections* below. There may be more than one correct choice for each commandment.
   *Suggested connections: Commandments 1-4 connect best with “Love the Lord...” and Commandments 5-10 connect best with “Love your neighbor...”
4. Repeat steps 1-3 until all of the Ten Commandments have been discussed.
GOT TIME? continued...

CRAFT: COMMANDMENT SCROLL

Purpose: To learn the Ten Commandments, children will create an ancient paper scroll.

Supplies: For each child (standard-size sheet of white paper, ribbon, piece of sponge), for the group (12 teabags, 1 1/2 quarts of hot water, bowls, napkins or paper towels)

Prepare: For younger children, print the Ten Commandments onto white paper. Older children may hand write the commandments on blank paper. Mix 12 tea bags with 1 1/2 quarts of hot water. Allow to cool. Pour tea water in bowls for children to use.

Today, we discovered God gave the Ten Commandments to the Israelites so they could be His people. He wanted them to agree to obey Him and, in return, He promised they would be His treasured possession. God also wants us to obey the Ten Commandments. We are special to Him, too!

Directions:
1. Give each child a copy of the Ten Commandments or a sheet of white paper.
2. Tear the edges of the paper so it looks old and worn.
3. Crumple up the paper and then straighten it to create a wrinkled effect.
4. Dip a sponge into the tea water and squeeze out excess water.
5. Lightly dab the tea stain onto the paper with damp sponge.
6. Allow the paper to dry.
7. Once the paper is dry, roll it as a scroll and tie it with a ribbon.

TEN COMMANDMENTS AND EXPLANATION

Use this list of the Ten Commandments with explanation for the Treasure Treat or to review the Ten Commandments in class.

1. “You shall have no other gods before me.” (Believe in the one true God.)
2. “You shall not bow down to idols or worship them.” (Make God the most important one in your life. Put God first before any favorite activity, belonging, friendship, and even before yourself.)
3. “You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.” (Always speak respectfully and truthfully when you use the names “God” or “Jesus.” Do not use His name in swearing or cursing. Only use His name when you are talking to Him in prayer or about Him to others.)
4. “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” (Always take a day each week to rest and worship God in a special way by attending church, worshiping God with other Christians, etc. In everything you do that day, keep your mind on God. Think about who He is and what He has done for you and your family.)
5. “Honor your father and your mother.” (Obey your parents. Talk to them and about them respectfully, no matter what.)
6. “You shall not murder.” (Do not kill anyone. Jesus teaches us to never hurt or hate anyone.)
7. “You shall not commit adultery.” (Stay pure and faithful to your husband or wife.)
8. “You shall not steal.” (Do not steal.)
9. “You shall not give false testimony.” (Do not lie.)
10. “You shall not covet.” (Do not want something that belongs to someone else.)
GOT TIME? continued...

DISCUSSION: COMMANDMENTS 1-4

Purpose: To help the children gain a deeper understanding of God’s commandments.

Supplies: Bible or a list of the Ten Commandments

Read Exodus 20:3, 5a, 7-8. Use the following descriptions to discuss the meaning of the first four commandments:

1. You shall have no other gods before Me. Believe in the one true God.

2. You shall not bow down to idols or worship them. Make God most important in your life. Put God first before any favorite activity, belonging, or friendship, and before yourself.

   Moses grew up with Pharaoh who worshiped Egyptian false gods and idols. Discuss why God wants His people to worship only Him. Idols are things we treat as more important than God. What are some of our idols today?

3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God. Always speak respectfully and truthfully when you use the names that refer to God. For example: God, Lord, Jesus, Holy Spirit, etc. Do not use His name in swearing, cursing, or joking. Only use His name when you are talking to Him in prayer or about Him to others.

   Why do you think speaking God’s name as an angry saying or as part of a silly joke is wrong? When is it respectful to use God’s name? How does using His name respectfully show God we love Him?

4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Always take a day each week to rest and worship God in a special way by attending church with your family or friends. In everything you do that day, think about God; Who He is and what He has done for you and your family.

   Why do you think it is important to take one day each week to focus on God? How would that show God we love Him?
GOT TIME? continued...

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

GAME: THE WAVE

Purpose: To help children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse.
Supplies: Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Directions:
1. Assign one phrase from John 3:16 to each child or group.
2. As the teacher or a helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says the assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and back down to their thighs, and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, moving faster each time.
4. Challenge children to recite John 3:16 in another language, such as the Spanish version below.

“Forque tanto amó Dios al mundo, que dio a su Hijo unigénito, para que todo el que cree en él no se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna.” Juan 3:16

GAME: MANNA SCRAMBLER

Purpose: To help the children memorize the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song.
Supplies: Large container for the manna jar, paper, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song “For God So Loved the World,” CD player, Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Prepare: Tear paper into 26 flake-shaped pieces (about 4-inches x 8-inches) for manna flakes. On each flake, print one word of the Bible Memory Verse in large, bold print. Place the flakes in the manna jar.

Directions:
1. Display the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse poster or have a Bible open to John 3:16.
2. Children take turns selecting a manna flake from the manna jar until all the flakes are gone.
3. As the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song plays, have the children race to see how quickly they can lay the John 3:16 manna flakes in order on the floor. The goal is to finish before the song ends.
4. If time permits, redistribute the manna flakes and play again.

Variation: Divide the group into two teams. Have teams take turns laying the manna flakes in order. The team who does it in the shortest amount of time is the winner.

Large Group Variation: If you have 26 or more children, have each child hold onto their manna flake. On your signal, have the children work together to line up so the John 3:16 manna flakes are in order.
Bible Timeline Review

Review the recent Bible stories studied to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done. Create or purchase a Bible Timeline. Hang your timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions.

Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.)
What did Jacob do to Esau? (He tricked him out of his birthright. He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.)
What did Jacob dream about when he ran away from Esau? (Angels on a ladder going to heaven.)
What did Jacob do the whole night before he reunited with Esau? (He wrestled with a mysterious man until God gave him a blessing.)

Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.)
What did Jacob give his son Joseph? (A colorful robe.)
What did Joseph’s jealous brothers do to him? (They threw him in an empty well and sold him into slavery.)
What good things happened for Egypt and for Joseph’s family as a result of Joseph being sold and taken to Egypt? (His family and all of Egypt had enough to eat during the famine.)

Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.)
What did Moses hear and see while he was tending his sheep? (God’s voice coming from a burning bush.)
What did God tell Moses to do? (Tell Pharaoh and the Israelites God would bring the Israelites out of Egypt.)
What did God say His name was? (“I Am.”)
How many plagues did God send to make Pharaoh let God’s people go? (Ten.)
What did Moses tell the people just before God parted the Red Sea? (“God will fight for you. You only need to be still.”)
What did God send from heaven to feed the Israelites in the wilderness? (Manna and quail.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:
1. Print each story title or person’s name with the historical date (whenever available) on a card.
2. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline.
3. Attach card to wall or clothesline in the following order for God of Wonders Lesson 22-47:
   Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

Note: God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. For a comprehensive list of Genesis through Revelation stories in timeline form, see ResourceWell.org.