



While Moses was on the mountain with God, trouble was brewing down below. In this awful chapter we observe first-hand the tremendous toll of idolatry. In only a matter of days after receiving the law, God's people had forgotten or turned away from God to another god with disastrous consequences.

Opening Question:

What was the most common form of punishment/discipline your parents used when you did something really wrong?

Read: Exodus 32

Who instigated the idolatry and why? (see 32:1) What is going on here? Are the people trying to worship God through the calf? Have they disregarded God, or are they trying to worship God in an inappropriate way?

Understanding the Story:

Look back at Exodus 12:33-36. Review the source of the Israelites' jewelry. What irony do you detect here? (see 32:2-4)

What impresses you about the dialogue between God and Moses? (see 32:9-14)

How did Moses react when he saw the Israelites' idolatrous worship? (see 32:19-24)

How was God's judgment against idolatry carried out? (see 32:27-28, 35)

What evidences of God's grace to you see in this difficult chapter?

Living the Story:

Of all the "characters" in this passage (Moses, Aaron, God, the people), with whom do you most easily identify and why?

God's people, despite all they had been through and all God had done for them, forgot that it was God who delivered them. When have you had a hard time remembering that God is your deliverer/redeemer? Under what circumstances is it easy for you to forget about God's care? What helps you to remember who God is and what God has done and is doing?

What does this passage suggest to you about idolatry and the (obvious and perhaps not so obvious) impact of idolatry on the relationship between God and human beings? What are some of the "golden calves" of God's people today?

Pray:

How can this group pray for you today?