

# THE GOLDEN CALF

## *Exodus 32:1-35*

### **Exodus 32**

<sup>1</sup>When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

<sup>2</sup>Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” <sup>3</sup>So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

<sup>5</sup>When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” <sup>6</sup>So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

<sup>7</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. <sup>8</sup>They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.’”

<sup>9</sup>“I have seen these people,” the LORD said to Moses, “and they are a stiff-necked people. <sup>10</sup>Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

<sup>11</sup>But Moses sought the favor of the LORD his God. “O LORD,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” <sup>14</sup>Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

<sup>15</sup>Moses turned and went down the mountain with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. <sup>16</sup>The tablets were the work of God; the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets.

<sup>17</sup>When Joshua heard the noise of the people shouting, he said to Moses, “There is the sound of war in the camp.”

<sup>18</sup>Moses replied:

“It is not the sound of victory,  
it is not the sound of defeat;  
it is the sound of singing that I hear.”

<sup>19</sup>When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. <sup>20</sup>And he took the calf they had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

<sup>21</sup>He said to Aaron, “What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?”

<sup>22</sup>“Do not be angry, my lord,” Aaron answered. “You know how prone these people are to evil. <sup>23</sup>They said to me, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’ <sup>24</sup>So I told them, ‘Whoever has any gold jewelry, take it off.’ Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”

<sup>25</sup>Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughingstock to their enemies. <sup>26</sup>So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, “Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.” And all the Levites rallied to him.

<sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Each man strap a sword to his side. Go back and forth through the camp from one end to the other, each killing his brother and friend and neighbor.’” <sup>28</sup>The Levites did as Moses commanded, and that day about three thousand of the people died. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, “You have been set apart to the LORD today, for you were against your own sons and brothers, and he has blessed you this day.”

<sup>30</sup>The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”

<sup>31</sup>So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. <sup>32</sup>But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

<sup>33</sup>The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. <sup>34</sup>Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin.”

<sup>35</sup>And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

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*Exodus 32:1-35*

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) Since Moses did not come off the mountain right away, what did the people want Aaron to do?
5		2.) Why did God tell Moses to go down the mountain? (Verse 7-8)
5		3.) When Moses saw what the people were doing, what did he do?
5		4.) Why do you think the people worshiped the golden calf?

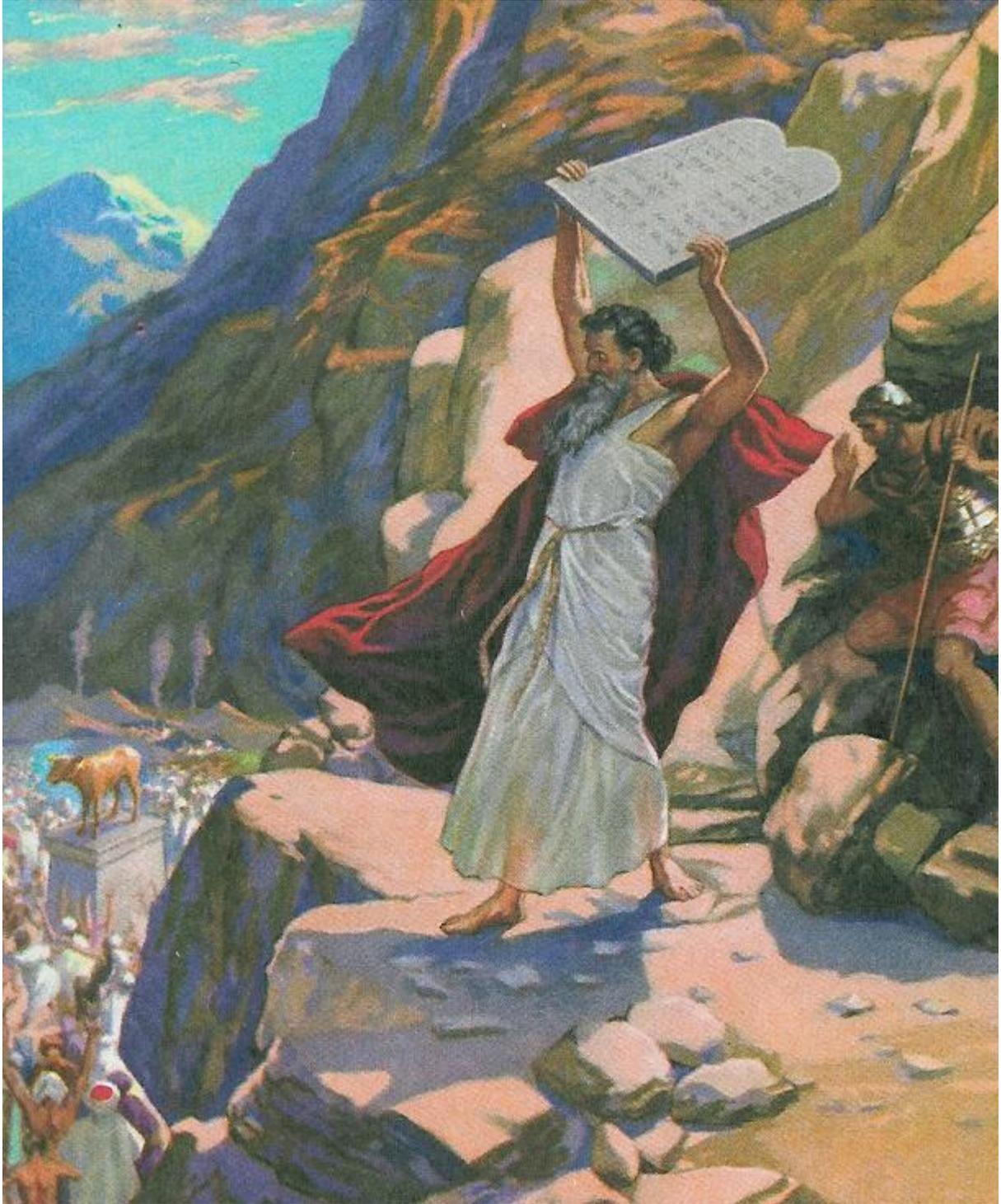
POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Luke 4:8</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

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*Exodus 32:1-35*



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

# THE GOLDEN CALF

*Exodus 32:1-35*



*Moses sees the Israelites worshipping a golden calf*

# THE GOLDEN CALF

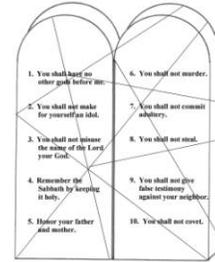
*Exodus 32:1-35*

## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: BROKEN COMMANDMENTS

Students will “break” the ten commandments into pieces to remind them of how Moses broke the ten commandments into pieces when he saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf.

### MATERIALS

1. 67 Lb. White Cardstock
2. Broken Commandments Pattern
3. Scissors
4. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils
5. Plastic Bags or Paper Clips



### DIRECTIONS

1. Make copies of the “Broken Commandments Pattern” for each student onto 67 lb cardstock.
2. Have students color the stone tablets with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
3. Instruct students to cut the stone tablets into pieces on the thin solid black lines.
4. Once students have cut their stone tablets into pieces, have them race to put them back together.
5. Put all pieces of the stone tablets into a plastic baggy or clip pieces together with a paper clip when finished.

### FOR DISCUSSION

As students are coloring and cutting the ten commandments into pieces, remind them of how the Israelites sinned by putting other gods before the one and only true God. Not only that, but they made for themselves an idol. This was enough to cause Moses to throw down the two tablets at the foot of the mountain. Help students realize that when we break God’s commandments, we break His heart.

### TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

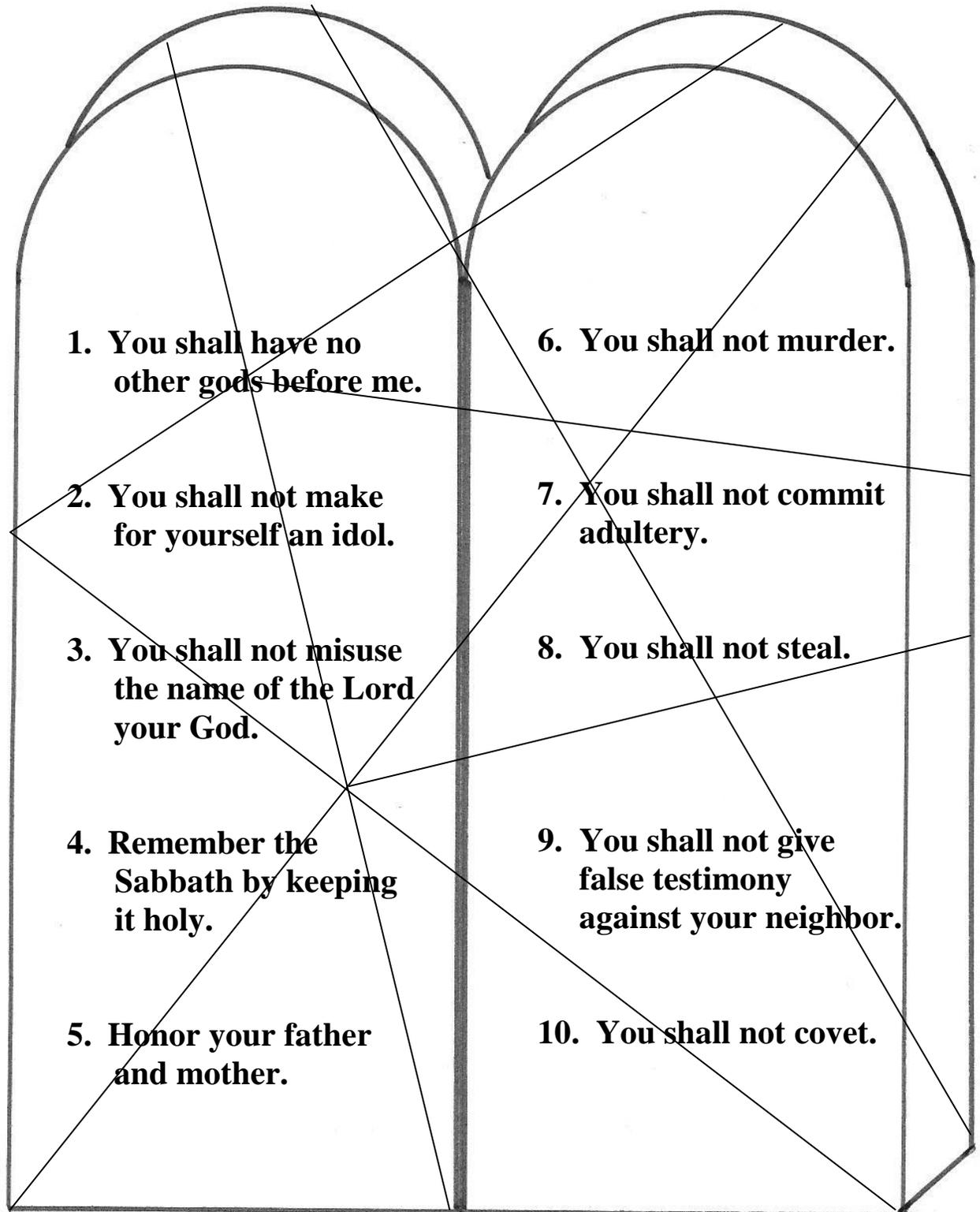
### MEMORY VERSE

*“Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” Luke 4:8*

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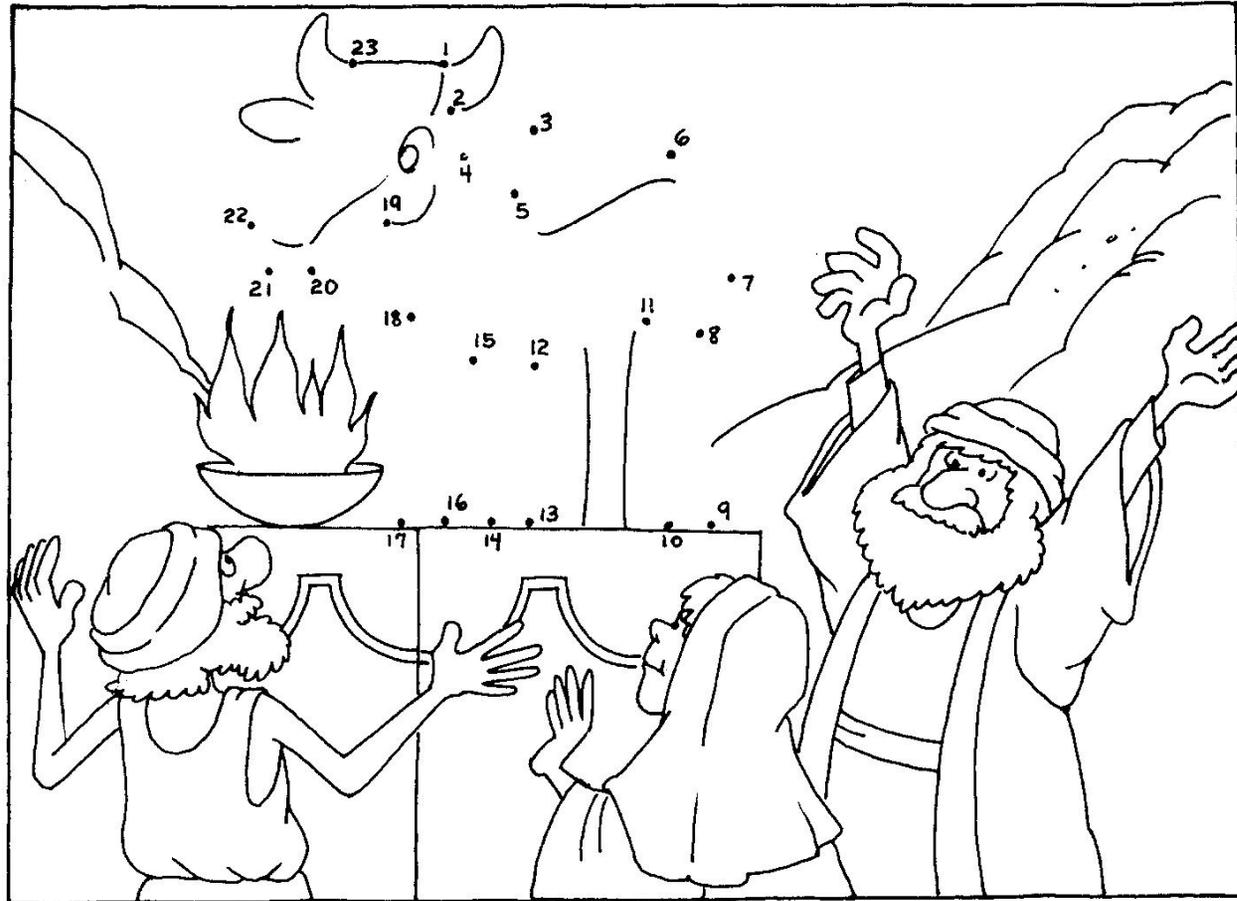
## BROKEN COMMANDMENTS PATTERN



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*Exodus 32:1-35*

Starting at #1,  
connect the  
dots to see  
what the  
Israelites  
made from  
gold.



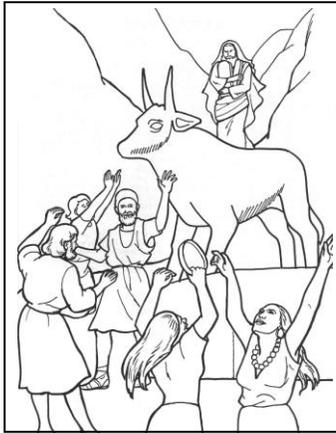
Moses went to the top of the mountain where God gave him the Ten Commandments. He was gone a long time and the people began to think that he was never coming back. They gave Aaron their gold jewelry and he built an idol for them to worship instead of God.



# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON EXODUS 32:1-35

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Moses was up on the mountain speaking with the Lord for 40 days and 40 nights. The Israelites wanted a god to go before them, so they collected all their gold. They gave their gold to Aaron

and he made the gold into the shape of a calf.

The Lord told Moses to go down the mountain because the Israelites were not obeying. They had made an idol. One of the commandments was not to worship idols.

The Lord wanted to destroy, or kill, the Israelites, but Moses talked with the Lord. The Lord decided not to destroy the Israelites after all.

Moses went down the hill with the ten commandments written on two stone tablets. When Moses got to the foot of the mountain, he saw the people dancing and worshiping the golden calf. Moses got angry with the people and he threw down the stone tablets. They broke into pieces.

Moses destroyed the golden calf. Moses called out to the people, "Whoever is for the Lord, the God of Israel, follow me." Moses had these people kill the others who did not want to follow after the Lord.

To find out more, read Exodus 32:1-35 in your Bible.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why was Moses on top of a hill?
2. What did the people do while Moses was speaking with the Lord?
3. What did Moses do to the stone tablets?
4. Why do you think Moses was so upset with the Israelites?

## MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4:8

## BREAK THE CODE

2 5 4 10 4 7 10 8 4

3 1 6 4 1

9 7 8 6 4 11

12 6 7 8

1=A	2=T	3=M	4=E
5=H	6=D	7=O	8=L
9=G	10=P	11=N	12=I