

What kind of God?

Exodus 32:1-14

Moses is meeting with God on Mt Sinai, receiving the Ten Commandments. Meanwhile, the Israelites fear something has happened to him and decide they want a different god. Aaron asks them to bring the gold they plundered from the Egyptians, and they melt it and form it into a golden calf – their new god, which they bow down to and worship. God is angry, but Moses brings the reminder that God is one of compassion and mercy.

Read this week's passage:



Living Scripture

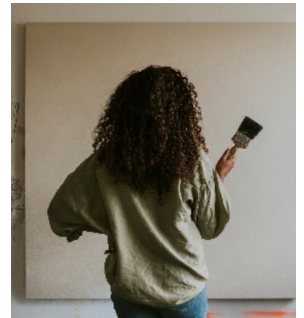
'He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"' Exodus 32:4

The golden calf wasn't even around when Moses led the people out of Egypt – but God was! So how come the golden calf was getting all the glory? How can a golden object set people free from slavery? The Israelites seemed to want a god they could see, feel and own, even though it couldn't listen to their complaints or help them as God could.

We sometimes place great importance on things we own or look up to. Do we let things we can touch or feel take over from our love of God? Take money, for example. It's essential for buying things we need and creating some beautiful things, but let's not allow owning more and more of it to become more important than anything else in our lives, and especially not more important than God. We may own possessions or money, but we need to be careful that these don't come to own us. First and foremost, we are God's people, loved by him before the world was made.

First impressions

- How do we form a picture/ understanding of God? How do our own ideas/culture/ background play into this?
- Do we tend to ignore the more complex aspects of God's character that don't fit easily with the idea of a loving God?
- God is merciful in today's passage. Have you experienced this yourself?



Pray

Lord, help us to acknowledge you in everything we do. May we honour you in what we do and what we say, as people who put you first, middle and last, everywhere and always. Amen.



Each day this week look up a new word to describe an attribute of God. Create a poster with that word, so by the end of the week, you have a collage reminding you of who God is.



Create a building challenge with bricks or junk items. What would you build to show something about God that is important to you?

Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:



Write

Draw a circle, then draw another circle inside it. In the outer circle, write the things that are important to you. In the inner circle, write words for the things you find most important.

Read

We may not melt down our jewellery to make golden idols anymore, but the feeling of pressure to follow the crowd is familiar for many. Read this short guide on how to handle peer pressure to help you stay faithful when your values are under pressure.

