

SLAVES SET FREE
A Study in the Book of Exodus
Holy Bible, New International Version ©2011

The Golden Calf

Exodus 32–33

*"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today.
The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you;
you need only to be still."* Exodus 14:13–14

Day 1: Read Exodus 32.

1. Read the entire passage several times getting a sense of the flow of events, jotting down things that impress you.
2. Recalling the Ten Commandments of Exodus 20, which command does Israel violate?
3. Remembering that the action in chapter 32 picks up where chapter 24 left off; what makes this sin of Israel so abominable?

Day 2: Read Exodus 32:1–29 and Deuteronomy 9:7–29.

4. What is God's reaction as he looks down from the mountain top on the activities in Israel's camp?
5. What light do the events of chapter 32 throw on the character of the people? of Aaron?
6. Why does God call Israel stiff-necked? (Deut. 9:7)

What is the danger in being this way? (Prov. 29:1)

Day 3: Read Exodus 32.

7. What was Moses' response to God's anger on the mountain? (32:11-14)

8. Describe Moses' feelings/reactions as he enters the camp after being in God's presence. (32:19-20)

9. Describe the two stone tablets. (32:15-16).

What do you think breaking the tablets at the foot of the mountain might signify?

Day 4: Read Exodus 32:20—33:17.

10. What are the five parts of God's judgment on Israel for their sin? (32:20, 27, 33, 35; 33:3)

11. Which part of the judgment do the people react to most strongly? (33:11)

Why do you think God demanded that they "take off [their] ornaments" (33:5c)?

12. What moves God finally to forgive Israel (33:15-17)?

What do God's mercy and justice mean to you?

13. What does God give Moses in answer to his prayer?

Day 5: Read Exodus 33.

14. What do Moses' prayers in 32:31-32 and 33:12-16 show us about the extent of his love for his people?

15. How is Moses a picture of Christ? (32:30-32; 33:11-17; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:15)

16. What can we learn from Moses about prayer (33:12-23)? What does Moses want most from God?

17. Think about your own prayers. Do you want God's blessings more than God himself?