

THE GOLDEN CALF/IDOLATRY

Idolatry: The religious worship of idols; excessive or blind adoration, reverence, devotion, etc.

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday October 10th – Read *Psalms 106:1-23*. This is the chosen people that God will use to transform the world. What is the most surprising of their faults to you? How does someone experience the pure presence of God, the joy of deliverance, and then, after time, completely forget about God in their life? How does our society compare?

Tuesday, October 11th – Read *Nehemiah 9:16-19*. Now take a look at Exodus 32:9-10. Does this account line up with Nehemiah? How is God different in the two passages? If God is the same, unchangeable, what should we do with passages that describe God in different ways? While I don't have an answer as to why God is recorded so differently across the Hebrew Bible, this is precisely the reason for Jesus Christ. God was being misunderstood so came in flesh to make sure the message was clear.

Wednesday, October 12th – Read *Acts 7:39-41* (Read all of chapter 7 for a great summary of where we have been since the Creation story as told in the book of Acts.) Is choosing to go our own way and not wait for God opposing the Holy Spirit? (Acts 7:51) How do we “wait for the Lord?”

Thursday, October 13th – Read *1 Cor. 10:7-8, Romans 1:25*. Paul reminds the early church about the festivities from the cult of the calf. The calf was simply a symbol of strength and fertility and was a pagan god that everyone understood. The calf permitted people to do whatever they wanted and have fun. There was no responsibility to one another or to the poor, just live it up! We often focus on the sexual immorality but the greater concern was the core issue of lack of discipline and focus on the foundation of faith in serving others. The Christian can also have a feast, but Jesus was clear this was only when everyone was invited to the table.

Friday, October 14th – Read *1 Kings 12:28, 13*. How do Jeroboam's actions compare to those of Aaron? Moses was available in Exodus 32 to intercede for the people. God didn't want the people to have a king, there were judges to help with justice and leadership (kind of like the Jedi Council in Star Wars) but the people cried out for a King to be like other lands. So there was a separation between the monarchy and the priests. When the king took it upon himself to redefine God for the nation, how did that go? What should the relationship be concerning government and faith? Can it ever be paired without coercion?

Saturday, October 15th – Read *Isaiah 51:17, 22; Psalms 75:8, Exodus 32:20*. What does Moses do to the golden calf? The smashing of tablets was known around the world as dissolving a contractual agreement. The people have already broken the Law before the Law was even read! Another universal item that people all over the world would know regardless of culture is that if you wanted to annihilate a god, you burned, ground, then sprinkled the remains. Having the people drink the remains of the calf speaks to the Isaiah and Psalms passages, of drinking God's wrath. What might this say to the Christian practice of Eucharist? The drinking of God, eating of God, is a reminder of the sacrifice of Christ for our lives. The world tried to destroy Christ but He lives and we commemorate his victory as the world attempted to burn, grind, then sprinkle (the burning is the hot sun in the desert tomb, grind is the dissolving of the bones, then sprinkled in a bone box—ossuary—in the family tomb) by taking Communion.

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Charlie Walters, Joan Jacobs, Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark