

Broken Stones

Exodus 31:18; 32:1-8, 15-19; 34:1-10; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 315-320

Have you ever felt angry because someone has done something mean? Have you ever had to say you are sorry to your Mom or Dad or a friend? Was it easy? The Israelites really hurt God. They had a big reason to say they were sorry. What did God do?

After God spoke the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai, He called Moses to the mountain. God had many instructions to give to Moses. He wanted to help the Israelites live the Ten Commandments in their everyday lives.

God talked to Moses for a long time. He explained His Ten Commandments in more detail. God wrote His commandments on two large stone tablets with His own finger. Moses was gone for a long time—40 days, almost 6 weeks—so long, the people thought he wasn't coming back. So they went to his brother, Aaron.

"Aaron," they said, "Moses has been away for a long time. We don't know where he is or what's happened to him. He may have brought us out of Egypt, but now he has left us. We want gods

that we can see, just like the gods the Egyptians had."

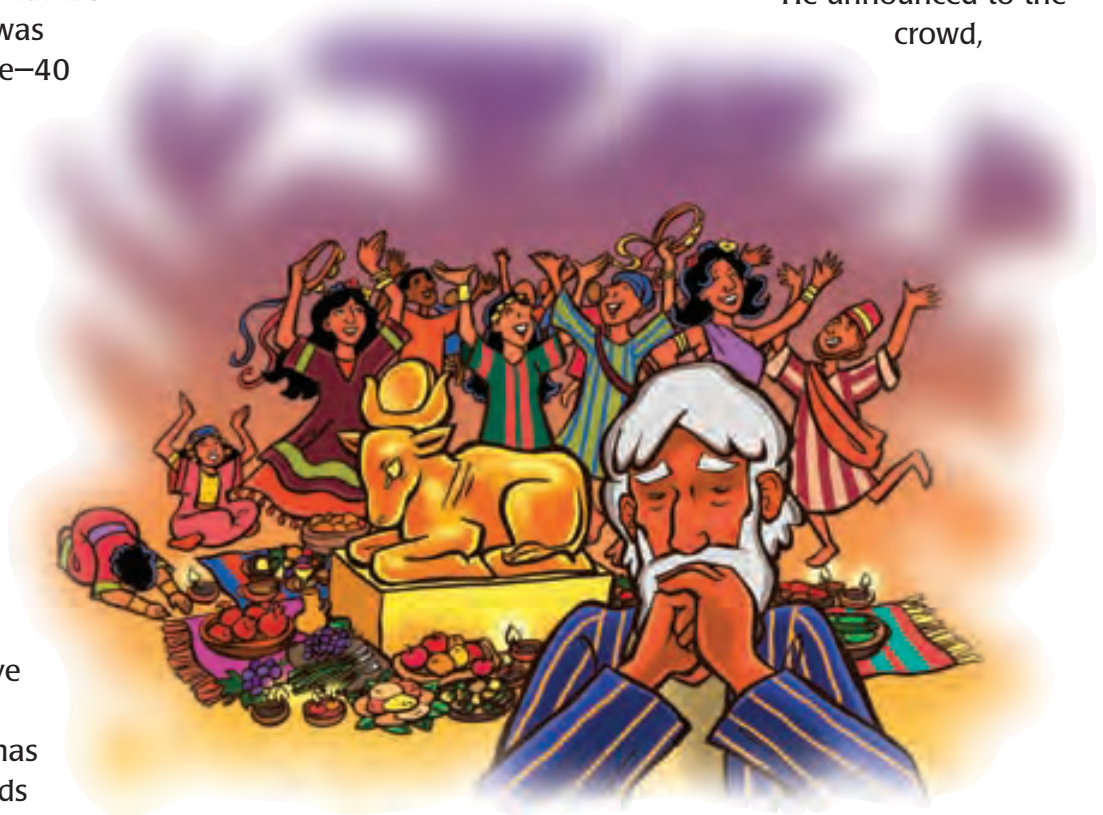
Aaron knew what they were asking was wrong. But he was afraid of the people. So, Aaron said, "Go home and tell everyone to bring their gold earrings to me."

Aaron melted the gold and molded it into a golden calf. The Israelites celebrated. "This is our god!" they shouted. "This is the god who brought us out of slavery. Our new god will lead us to our new land."

Aaron knew he had done wrong. He knew he and the people were disobeying God's second commandment. Even so, he tried to keep the people from turning entirely away from God.

He built an altar in front of the golden calf.

He announced to the crowd,



The Message

God is always ready to forgive me.

Memory Verse

"You are forgiving and good, O Lord"

(Psalm 86:5, NIV).



"Tomorrow we will have a festival to the Lord." But that only made things worse.

The next day the people got up early. They brought many offerings to their new god. Everyone began dancing, singing, eating, and drinking. Aaron had said, "We will have a festival to the Lord." But the people were clearly having a party for their idol.

Moses was still on the mountain talking with God. Suddenly God said to him, "Go down quickly, Moses. The people have been quick to turn from what I have commanded. They have made an idol cast in the shape of a calf. And

they have offered sacrifices and bowed down to it."

Moses hurried down the mountain.

He carried the two special stones on which God had written with His own finger. Halfway down the mountain Moses met one of his helpers, Joshua. Moses and Joshua heard loud noises. "It sounds like a battle in the camp. Has someone attacked the Israelites?" Joshua asked.

"No," said Moses. "That's not the sound of a battle. It's not the sound of people crying. It is the sound of people singing."

They hurried on. When they finally reached the camp, Moses saw the golden calf. He saw God's people dancing around it. Angrily, he took the Ten Commandment stones and threw them to the ground—smashing them into pieces.

Moses begged God to forgive the Israelites. God did forgive them. He loved them, even though they had done wrong.

It is just the same today. If we are truly sorry, God forgives us when we do wrong things. All we have to do is ask Him. If we stay close to Him, we will know His love and forgiveness too.

S A B B A T H

READ Read your Bible lesson story. Imagine that you are Moses looking down at Israel worshipping the golden calf and throwing the commandment stones to the ground. Share your thoughts.

READ Read Psalm 86:5 to your family. Clap the verse as you did in Sabbath School.

SING Sing "I'm So Happy" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 65). Thank God for His love and forgiveness.

S U N D A Y

READ For worship, read Exodus 31:18; 32:1-8, 15-19.

DO Make a "mountain collage." Cut pictures from old magazines and glue them onto paper. By what mountain were the Israelites camped (Exodus 19:23)? Imagine that you were there. How would you have felt?

SHARE Say the memory verse to an adult.

M O N D A Y

READ During worship, read Exodus 32:19 again. Moses became angry. Ask your family: When is it OK to be angry?

MAKE Make eight mountain-shaped cutouts. Write one memory verse word on each. Don't forget the Bible text. Arrange the cutouts in order.

SING Sing "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 13).

PRAY Thank God for His goodness to your family.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read Exodus 34:1-10 with your family. How do verses 6 and 7 describe God?

DO Make a cutout of a Ten Commandments tablet and attach it to a mirror. Pin the word "God" to a washcloth. Put some dirt on your face and look in the mirror. How will you clean it off? With the mirror? With the "God" washcloth? The Ten Commandments can't forgive our sins. They send us to God. Only God can forgive us.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read Psalm 51:7 for family worship. Ask your family what this verse means.

DO Write the words "God's Grace" at the top of a paper. How many words can you make from the letters G-O-D-S-G-R-A-C-E? Have your family help you. Talk about God's love.*

DO Arrange your memory verse cutouts and say your memory verse as a prayer.

*Adapted from Gail Rice, *The Textures of Grace in Our Schools*, p. 12.

THURSDAY

READ During family worship read 1 John 1:9. What does this text mean?

DO Put some food coloring in water to represent sin. Ask an adult to add some bleach to the water. What happens? The bleach represents Jesus forgiving us.

DO Say your memory verse without help.



Exodus 21-31 tells us what God told Moses for 40 days on Mount Sinai.

FRIDAY

DO If possible, gather around a fire for evening worship. Act out this week's Bible story.

DO Say the memory verse together. Read or repeat 1 John 1:9. Give paper to everyone. Have them draw or write about a wrong thing they did and fold the paper. Then throw the papers in the fire and watch them burn. Remember that God forgets our sins when He forgives us (Jeremiah 31:34). (If you can't have a fire, bury the papers.)

PRAY Thank God for His love and forgiveness.

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PUZZLE

Directions: The Israelites broke the commandments that God gave them. Help Moses find new tablets on which God can write the Ten Commandments by circling 2 hidden tablets.



YOUR TEN COMMANDMENTS

**FOLLOW THE
RECIPE TO MAKE A MODEL
OF THE STONE TABLETS WITH
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.**

Recipe:

**1 cup flour
1/2 cup salt
1/4 cup water
1/2 teaspoon vinegar
few drops food coloring**

**Pour 1 cup flour and 1/2 cup salt into a bowl. Mix well.
Add remaining ingredients. Mix with hands.
Roll out mixture onto waxed paper to thickness of about 1/2 inch.
Use the pattern on this page to shape mixture into the stone tablets.
Use a butter knife to make a "crease" down the middle (don't cut all the way through) and to "write" numbers 1-4 on the left tablet and numbers 5-10 on the right tablet.
Slide waxed paper with formed dough to place where it can air dry.**

(Adapted from "Fun with Kids in the Kitchen" cookbook, by Judi Rogers.)

PROJECT:
Stone Tablets For Your
Ten Commandments.

SUPPLIES:
1-Mixing Bowl
1-Roll of Wax Paper
1-Butter Knife
1-Rolling Pin

