

## PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, many things attract me and tempt me to love them.  
Help me, by Your Holy Spirit, to love You more than all things.  
Amen.

### Memory

1. “Do not have any other gods besides Me” (Exodus 20:3).
2. “No God was formed before Me, and there will be none after Me. I, I am the LORD, and there’s no one besides Me who can save” (Isaiah 43:10b-11).

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*Emmaus Bible Lessons*

Series 1: The First Three Commandments  
Study #02 of 13: The Golden Calf (Exodus 32)

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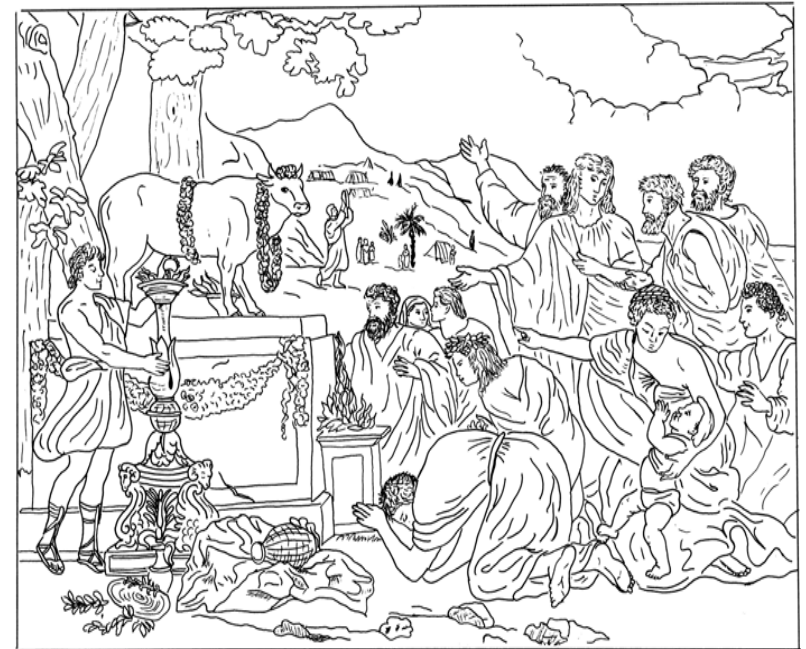


## Emmaus Bible Lessons

Series 1: The First Three Commandments

Study #02 of 13

# First Commandment *The Golden Calf*



God says to you in the first commandment,  
“Do not have any other gods besides Me”  
(Exodus 20:3).

**THIS MEANS** you must love and trust God  
your heavenly Father more than anything else.

## **Bible Reading: Exodus 32:1-4a, 7-16, 19-20**

### **Questions and Answers For Understanding This Bible Story**

#### **1. What did the people do while Moses was on the mountain with God? Why did they do this? Was this a good thing to do?**

While Moses was on the mountain with God, the people asked Aaron to make a new god for them. So Aaron made a statue of a golden calf for the people to worship.

The people asked Aaron to do this because they thought that Moses was taking too long on the mountain with God. This delay made them feel worried and impatient. They quickly placed their love and trust in a false god. In this way, God's people committed a terrible sin against God. This sin is called idolatry. Idolatry makes God angry.

#### **2. God says, "Do not have any other gods besides Me" (Exodus 20:3). But the people traded the true God for a golden calf. In the same way, what sort of things do people today feel tempted to love and trust more than God? Think about your own life. What things do you feel tempted to love more than you love God?**

There are many things that you can feel tempted to love and trust more than God. Some people love money or entertainment or sports activities more than they love God. Other people love their family members or their friends more than they love God. Still other people feel tempted to love things such as food, clothing, or their house more than they love God.

Each and every person has a different thing that he or she feels tempted to love more than God. However, when you love these things more than you love God, this is just as serious as worshipping a golden calf! This, too, is idolatry.

#### **3. In this Bible lesson, what made God's anger go away?**

God's anger toward the people went away because Moses stood between the guilty people and God. (This is called interceding.) Moses asked God not to destroy the people.

Moses did not try to calm God's anger by promising God that the people would never sin again. Moses knew that the people would surely sin again! Instead, Moses calmed God's anger over the people's sin by asking God to remember His promises to the people. Moses also told God that, if the people were destroyed, other people would say bad things about God. God turned away from His anger because of His great love for His people and because of the honor of His name.

#### **4. In His Bible, this is what God says about His Son, Jesus: "He [Jesus] takes on Himself the sins of many people and intercedes for the wrongdoers" (Isaiah 53:12). According to these words, what makes God's anger go away when you also break His commandments?**

The people of Israel deserved to be punished because they had committed a great sin against God. However, Moses stood between the people and God, asking God not to destroy them.

In the same way, we also have committed many sins that make God angry. Like the people of Israel, we also have committed idolatry. However, Isaiah 53:12 promises us that our Lord Jesus Christ also stands for us between our sins and God's anger. Because Jesus died on the cross to take God's anger away, we no longer fear that we will be punished for our sins.

God says to you and to all His dear Christians, "You have been washed, you have been made holy, you have been declared righteous by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11). Why has God done this for you? God has done this for you because He loves you and sent His Son Jesus to the cross for you. "The blood of Jesus, His Son, washes us clean from every sin" (1 John 1:7).