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# The Golden Calf

*Scripture: Exodus 32:1-35*

**Theme: God is holy and cannot tolerate idolatry**

*PreK-K (Ages 3-5)*

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Free curriculum for small and rural churches

## Lesson Overview

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Lesson: Moses and the Promised Land God loves us and always keeps His promises! Long ago, Moses led the Israelites through the desert, and though he didn't see the whole journey at once, he trusted God every step of the way. Even when the work seemed never-ending, Moses knew that God would take care of him and the people He loved. One day, Moses looked out at the promised land, where the Israelites could live in peace. Even though he had been a leader for so long, he knew that he wouldn't stay to see it himself. But that didn't stop him! He trusted God to finish the job, even when he couldn't see the end. Today, we can do the same! Sometimes, we finish our work in church, school, or at home, and even though we might not see the big rewards right away, we can trust God to keep His promises. He sees our efforts, and He will reward us with His love forever! God is always faithful, just like He was for Moses. Let's trust Him today and finish our tasks with hearts full of wonder!

## Bible Story

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### Moses and the Land He Saw

Long ago, Moses walked with God for many years. He led God's people out of Egypt, through the desert, and helped them follow God's rules. Even when they complained and doubted, Moses kept trusting God. One day, God told Moses, "I will give you a special place to call my own. You will see it from far away, but you will never step inside."

Moses looked out at a beautiful green valley with trees and rivers. It shimmered under the sun, and the hills sparkled like diamonds. His heart leaped with wonder, "This is the land God promised! But what if I can't go in?" God whispered, "You will rest here in peace, just as you rested when I spoke to you in the mountain. You will sleep here, and when I send someone else, they will take over. You have done what God asked, and now you can go to be with him."

As Moses gazed at the land, the sun set, painting the sky red and gold. He knew God loved him, even though he couldn't go inside. The people cried, "Moses, we will miss you!" But Moses smiled and said, "God is my best friend forever. I will rest here, and He will keep me safe." Then, as if he were saying goodbye, he fell asleep, just like God had promised.

Why This Story Matters: God always keeps His promises! Just like Moses trusted Him even when he couldn't go into the land, we can trust God today. He loves us and will always be near, no matter where we are. When we rest in Him, we feel His peace, just like Moses did. What a wonderful way to end our day with God's love!

## Key Verse

### Exodus 32:8

Oh, sweet friends, let's talk about Moses, such a brave and special man! Once, a long, long time ago, there lived a kind and strong boy named Moses. God called him by name and loved him very much. God showed Moses wonderful things, just like a friend who knows you best! Moses was like a superhero who helped his people, and God trusted him more than anyone else. Now, you might wonder: Who is special like Moses? Well, Moses was unique because God talked to him in a special way, like a secret hug! No one else knew God like Moses did. That means God loved him so much, just like you're loved by your grown-ups. Every day, think about how God loves you too! Just like Moses, you can be brave and kind, just as God's little friend. And remember: God sees you and cares for you, just like He saw Moses! What a wonderful thing to know!

## Activities

### Activity 1:

Little ones will imagine Moses seeing God's promise in a rainbow by coloring and gluing together a bright, colorful scene.

1. Show the Bible Story: Read the last few verses of Deuteronomy 34 together. Ask: "Did Moses see a rainbow? What did God promise?" Hold up a rainbow picture or draw one on the board.
2. Cut Out Rainbow Stripes: Cut rainbow paper into long strips (teacher does this). Let kids pick their favorite colors.
3. Make a Rainbow Dream: Give each child a paper plate or paper. Glue the rainbow strips in a circle at the top, "God promised us a bright, happy home!" Add clouds with stickers or crayons.
4. Wonder Together: Ask, "Where would you go if you saw a rainbow?" Let kids share! Place the art on a "promise wall" to hang up.

### Activity 2:

Kids will explore a simple "promised land" by finding items that represent God's gifts, like water, food, and homes, while acting like Moses leading them!

1. Act Out the Story: Use a puppet or toy car to pretend Moses walks through the desert. Ask: "What did Moses see in the promised land?" Point to a drawing of mountains or a green field.
2. Set Up the "Desert": Scatter toy items in a corner (e.g., water bottle = river, fruit = food). Call it the "promised land" if kids want to

## Discussion Questions

- Here are four open-ended discussion questions for preschool and kindergarten children about the story of Moses and the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34:1-12):
- What is something special you see in nature that makes you feel like it's waiting for you to explore it? How does it feel to be so close to something wonderful that you've only heard about before? Just like Moses saw the

beautiful land from far away, what would you do if you saw a special place you couldn't yet reach?

- Moses knew God was faithful, even when he wasn't there. What's something kind or safe you've seen in your own life that made you feel God was watching over you? What would happen if you didn't know where God was? How can you thank Him for the good things around you, just like Moses did when he saw the land?
- The Promised Land was a big, exciting place, but Moses also saw the sky and the mountains. What's a big, wonderful thing in your world that you can't yet explore, but you know it's safe and full of things to do? If you had a special adventure coming, what would you ask God to help you prepare for? How can you wait with wonder and trust, like Moses did?
- Moses spent a long time preparing for this journey. What's something you've practiced or worked toward, like drawing a picture or learning a new song? How can you keep waiting and believing, like Moses did, when the big things in life feel a little far away? What would make your heart feel happier to wait for?

## Prayer Focus

*Prayer for Wonder and Faith "Dear God, we love You so much! Look how far You've brought Moses, through deserts and storms, to a land where trees grow tall! We wonder, God: You're always there, even when we feel small. Help us see Your love today, just like Moses saw Your promise!" "Oh God, You are so big, so kind, Like a giant cloud in the sky! We trust You, Lord, even when the road feels long and the path feels high. Help us walk by faith, just like Moses did so long ago! Amen!" "Thank You, God, for the land You gave, A place to plant seeds and laugh! We'll remember You're always near, even when we can't see Your path. Show us Your power, Lord, today and always!" "We're so thankful, God, for You! Our hearts are full of wonder too! Help us share Your love so true, just like Moses did so brave. And always, Lord, we'll trust You, Amen!"*

### >> Missions Spotlight

The elderly church leaders in rural China have endured decades of persecution. Many have never seen the fruit of their labor in their lifetime. The story of Moses encourages them that faithfulness matters even when we don't see the full harvest.

### -> To the Cross

Moses led the people for 40 years but wasn't allowed to enter the Promised Land himself. He pointed the people forward to something greater. Jesus, our greater Moses, not only points the way, He IS the way, and He entered the true Promised Land (heaven) on our behalf.