

## **Week 9 Don't Turn Away from the Lord**

### **Exodus 32-34**

*Aim: To see those who have been rescued from slavery to sin to serve God must not then serve idols of our own making but worship and serve the one true God as he has revealed himself.*

**Getting Started:** Share some of the ways you have come to understand what idolatry is according to the Bible.

**Pray** for understanding as we read God's word.

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### **What is God saying?**

We left off last week in chapters 19-24 with the giving of the law at Sinai. Chapters 25-31 Moses goes up on the mountain to speak with the Lord for 40 days and nights. There the Lord gives him the plans for the tabernacle they are to build.

Chapters 35-40 are about implementing those plans. More on that next week. In the middle, chapters 32-34, we have this interruption - the golden calf episode - this is what's going on down the mountain.

### **Read Exodus 32:1-14**

Discuss the steps that unfold in the creation of the golden calf and their possible meaning (vv1-6)

How does God view the situation and what is His response? (vv 7-10)

Moses does not leave the Lord alone but intercedes for Israel. What does he ask for and what reasons does he give? (vv 11-13)



When Moses sees what the people had done he breaks the stone tablets of the covenant that God had given him symbolising how the Israelites had broken their covenant promises to God (see 23:3-4). There is punishment as many are stuck down and the Lord strikes all the people with a plague.

**Read Exodus 33:1-7**

What is the big problem Israel is faced with in the future of their relationship with God and the fulfilment of his promises?

**Read Exodus 34:4-14**

What hope does this passage give for the problem to be resolved?

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**Why is God saying this?**

**Read 1 Cor 10:1-14**

How does Paul instruct Christians to read and apply the Exodus events we read in the Old Testament?

In what ways do you (we) struggle with idolatry (see questions to diagnose idolatry on the next page)?

As we consider the reality and depth of our own sinfulness, how is our hope the same as the hope of Israel in Exodus and how has it been more clearly revealed in our time? What are some ways we can stand firm in this hope and not fall away?

## **Prayer Starters**

- Confess our sin of idolatry and our need of God's grace
- Praise God for his steadfast love and faithfulness revealed in his word and the gospel of Jesus Christ
- Pray that God would renew our minds to understand his truth and live according to it in daily worship of him

## **Growing Growth Group Suggestion**

Talk about your plans for the end of this term and the beginning of the next. We are looking at 1 John.

## **Questions to diagnose your idols (what you worship):**

What gets you up in the morning?

What keeps you up at night?

What do you fear losing?

What makes you happy?

What do you find yourself praying about regularly?

What do you need first in life before you'll serve God?

What do you spend a lot of your time doing?

What gets first place in my calendar?

What do you feel instinctively drawn to?

What do I worry about most?

What keeps me going?

What do I rely on when things get bad?

What do I think most easily about?

What prayer unanswered would make me abandon God?

What makes me feel the most self worth?

What am I proudest of?