

LESSON # 30

Exodus 24, Exodus 32

1.

Moses told the children of Israel the 10 commandments that God had given them. The Israelites said, "All that God has commanded, we will do." The commandments weren't written down yet, so God called to Moses and told him to come back to the top of the mountain and God would give him other commandments for the people. God would tell them different ways to live in order to take care of each other and take care of their animals and their farms, for when they reached the promised land. Moses left Aaron in charge of the camp while he went up to the mountain but he took a young man part way up the mountain with him. This man was named Joshua. Joshua had been a good helper to Moses all during the journey through the wilderness and he was in charge of Israel's army. Moses told Joshua to wait part way up the mountain, for only Moses would be able to approach God.

As the people watched, Moses entered the dark cloud that covered the mountain. There were flashes of lightning and fire seen in the cloud and a loud rumbling like thunder. They wondered how Moses could stand to go into that frightening cloud! God took care of Moses though, and an angel of God talked with Moses, giving him God's laws for the people. God told Moses about a beautiful tent he and the people were to build for a place to come and worship God. There was to be a High Priest to make sacrifices for the people and the angel of God told Moses just how the Priest's clothing was to be made and what kind of duties the High Priest would have. Then God cut two tables of stone out of the mountain and wrote on these tables with his finger. This was a miracle and would have been frightening to see. Moses was very special to get to talk to God's angel this way and to be able to see the power of God.


All of this took a long time. Do you know how long Moses was on the mountain talking to God? He was in that dark, frightening, cloud for 40 days and 40 nights! As each day passed the people kept expecting Moses to come back down the mountain, but there was no sign of him. Finally they got tired of waiting for Moses and they decided he was never going to return. Perhaps he got a heart attack and died, or a bolt of lightning killed him, they figured. They didn't have enough faith or trust in God, for Moses had said he would return. Pretty soon they began to grumble and complain to Aaron.



The Israelites forgot that they had promised to obey all that God had told them. They got together and decided that the true God of Israel wasn't enough. The gods of Egypt were big and beautiful, why not worship them as well as this invisible God that had done away with Moses! A mob of angry people went to Aaron and demanded that he make an idol of Egypt's calf-god. After all, the oxen were what led them out of Egypt, it seemed fitting to make an image of the calf-god and let this idol lead them back TO Egypt. They were tired of this wilderness and they didn't know what happened to Moses. This was breaking the first two Commandments that God had given them..."you shall have no other Gods before me" and "You shall not make an image or idol to worship."

Poor Aaron didn't know what to do ... he also wondered where Moses was and he was afraid of the angry people. What would you do? Aaron should have had faith in God and known that God was leading the children of Israel. They had the cloud pillar to lead them and pillar fire to watch over their camp at night. Aaron shouldn't have been afraid, and he should have obeyed God instead of the angry men. Your memory verse for this week comes from Acts where Peter had angry men facing him also. This is what he told them:

Acts 5:29 "We must obey God rather than men!"

This is a short memory verse so you should learn it easily. When you know it, put an X in the gold box. 

God is all powerful and he watches over us, protects us and gives us the things that are good for us. The Israelites should have known that God would take care of them and know that he would also take care of Moses and he would return when it was the correct time.

However, Aaron was frightened by the angry mob, so he told the Israelites to bring all their gold jewelry and give it to him and he would melt it down and make a golden calf for them to worship. This delighted many of the people and they gladly gave him their gold jewelry. In those days when idols were worshipped there was usually a big party with drinking and drugs music and dancing. The people could hardly wait for the calf idol to be made. Aaron melted down the gold and took a hammer and shaped the gold to look like an Egyptian calf. Meanwhile the men and women started drinking and dancing to wild music. They were quickly turning from God's ways.



After Aaron made the golden calf he made an altar beside the calf told the people they would have a feast day and sacrifice on the altar. A few of the people knew this was wrong and wanted nothing to do with this, but most everyone was delighted in the idea of a feast and partying while honoring the golden calf and making sacrifices to it.

Meanwhile, on Mt. Sinai God told Moses, "Go down the mountain now, for your people are wickedly sinning against me. I can destroy them all and make a mighty nation out of you," he told Moses. Moses knew this could not happen, for God had promised to make a great nation of Abraham and his descendants, the Israelite people. If they died off then God's promise couldn't come true. Moses prayed to God that he would not completely destroy this people. God was glad that Moses prayed for the people's safety and he said he wouldn't completely destroy them but those who had done evil would be destroyed when the time was right. How sad God must have been, for he had just given the people his most important words and they had all shouted that they would obey everything God said, and yet now they had forgotten it all and had begun the wicked idol worship that God hated.

Moses started down the mountain and when he came to Joshua's camp, Joshua said, "We should hurry back, there is a sound of war in the camp." He had heard all the shouting of the Israelites and thought they were being attacked. Moses said, "That isn't the sound of war, that's the sound of singing you hear." They climbed on down the mountain and when Moses turned around a corner and looked out at his people, he saw them drinking and dancing and shouting and singing as they danced around the golden calf, calling it their god and worshipping it. Moses suddenly was overcome with terrible anger and he threw down the precious tablets of stone that God had written on. They broke to pieces as Moses dashed into the camp, tore down the golden idol, got a tool to crush and grind the gold into powder. Then he put threw powder into a stream and told the people to drink it. When Moses came to Aaron he asked him, "What terrible thing did these people do to you to make you bring such a sin on them?"

Had they done something terrible to Aaron? No, they had been angry and grumbled and shouted, but Aaron should have stood up for God's ways and laws and not been frightened of the people, shouldn't he? When we do wrong, sometimes we make it even worse by lying about it. Aaron told Moses, "It was the people's fault, they threw their gold into the fire and out came this calf." This didn't really happen, did it? Aaron shaped and made the calf with tools.



Many of the wicked people died that day and Moses sadly climbed back up the mountain with a heavy heart. He had broken the precious tablets that had been printed on by God himself. Aaron who was the chief priest of the people and Moses' brother, had helped the wicked people and lied about it because of fear. He had forgotten that he must obey God rather than men. Many of the people were dead and God was angry with all who had done wrong.

When Moses reached the top of the mountain he fell down and prayed to God to forgive him and the children of Israel. He prayed that God wouldn't destroy them all. God said that he would forgive those who followed his ways.

Then Moses asked God, "please show me your glory let me see you and know you better." God said, "I am pleased with you Moses, you are the only one who I have allowed to speak directly to me. However, no one can see my face and live, but you may stand on the rock over there and I will pass before you and I will tell you my name. When I come by I will put my hand over you to protect you but you will see my goodness." Moses did as God said and God told him, "I am the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God. I am slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness. I give love to thousands and forgive wickedness, rebellion and sin. But I won't leave the guilty unpunished."

Then God told Moses he must cut other tables of stone out of the mountain and Moses was to carve the commandments on the tables of stone. Moses was on the mountain another 40 days and 40 nights while he talked with God and prayed for the people and carved the commandments on the tables of stone. He didn't have any food to eat or water to drink all during that time, so he must have been weak and hungry by time he started down the mountain at the end of the 40days. When he reached the camp Moses called the people together to tell them what God had said, but do you know what? The people couldn't stand to look at Moses.

Do you think he was awfully ugly, or what?

No, his face was glowing so brightly it was like it was a light. The people couldn't stand to look at him, so Moses put a veil over his face while he talked to the people and gave them all the new laws that God had given him. Whenever Moses went to talk to God he took the veil off, but when he spoke to the people he put the veil over his face.



Eventually the glow on Moses' face faded and he could once again talk directly to the people. Now it was time for them to get busy, for God had given them instructions about building a beautiful tent to use for a place of worship. This tent was to be called a "Tabernacle" and just like a camping tent, or a big circus tent, the Tabernacle could be quickly taken down and moved to a new location and quickly set up again. God had given Moses all the instructions on how to build the Tabernacle and what kind of things to put in it. Moses called the people together and told them, "If you are willing to please God and give some of your possessions to help make this Tabernacle, then these are the things we will need. We will need gold and silver jewelry to melt down and make into candlesticks and bowls and things for inside the Tabernacle. We will need cloth and thread of blue, purple and red. Anyone who has fine, white, linen cloth, please bring it and anyone who has ram skins, we will need those. Lots of wood will be needed, some can come from the trees near the stream and some from things you have brought from Egypt.

The people who had made the golden calf were gone and the others wanted to please God and willingly brought piles of cloth, gold and silver jewelry and jewels like rubies and emeralds that the Egyptian people had given them when they left Egypt.

Then Moses picked out two men who were very skilled in working with metals and materials and asked them to be over all the construction. They were to pick out others who were skilled in different crafts to help build the Tabernacle. Under the shadow of Mt. Sinai there was a lumber area where trees and boards were cut, planed smooth and sawed into proper lengths. There were tents set up where women sat and weaved on looms to make beautiful curtains of blue, purple and red, with gold threads sewed into them. Other women would be working on fine linen to make clothes for the priests, and jewelers would be cutting jewels and setting them in fine, gold, settings for the High Priest's garments. In another area gold jewelry and brass mirrors and cooking pots would be melted down in big furnaces and then shaped into a gold candlestick, a small altar, silver dishes and brass to cover a large altar. It was a very busy time for the Israelites and a time when they were happy to be serving God with their work. It took a year to finish making all the things for the Tabernacle. In our next lesson we'll tell you what exactly was in the Tabernacle and what it looked like.



Question Page

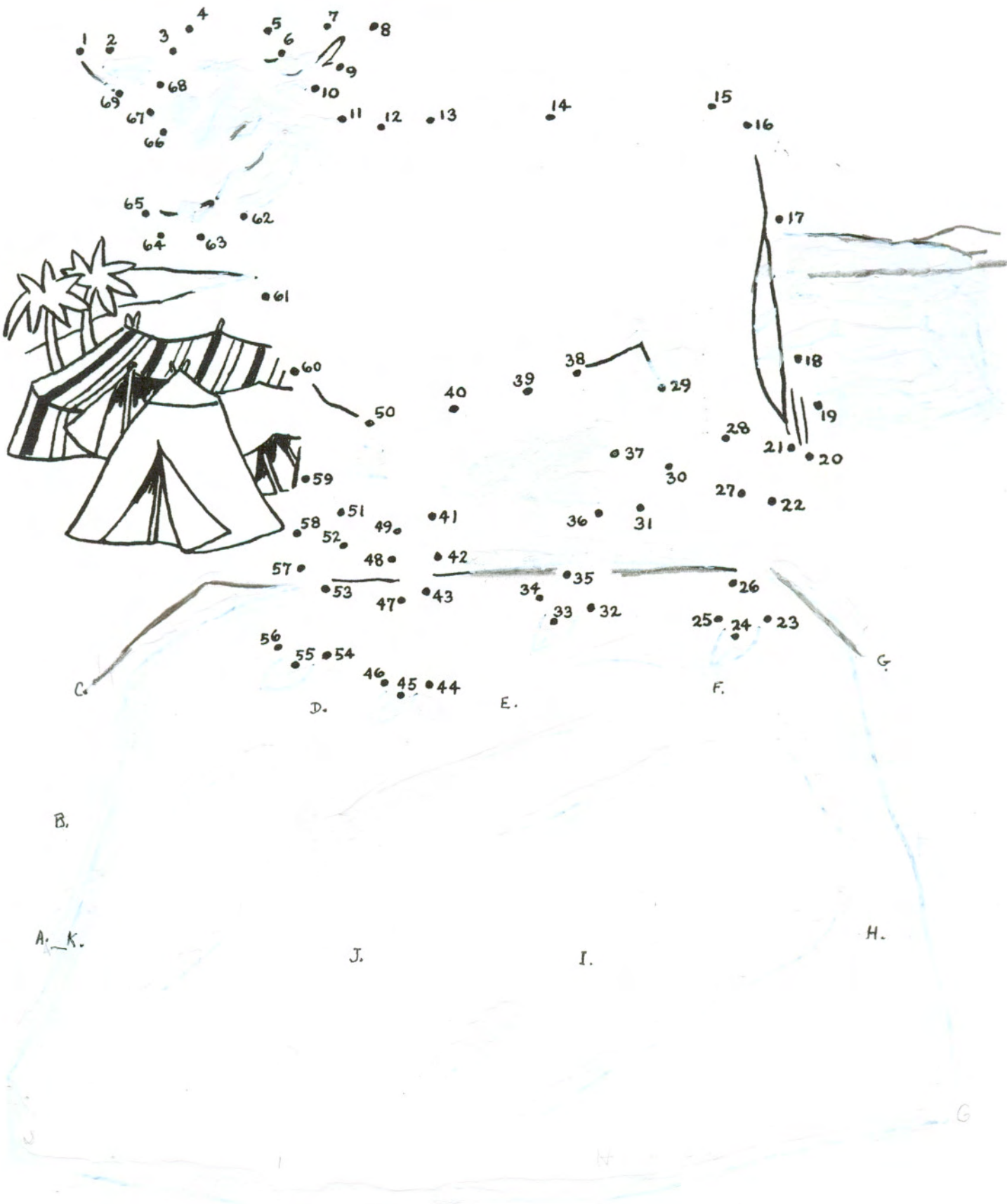
Put a T or F in the blanks below to show if the statement is True or False

1. ____ The Israelites told Moses, "All God has said, we will do."
2. ____ Moses was on Mount Sinai one year getting the Commandments
3. ____ God wrote the 12 Commandments on tables of stone.
4. ____ Aaron was afraid and told the people to bring him all their silver jewelry.
5. ____ If we obey God instead of men, we shouldn't be afraid, for God will be with us.
6. ____ Moses went back up Mt. Sinai to talk to God for another 50 days and 50 nights.
7. ____ Moses demanded the people to give up their jewelery and cloth for the Tabernacle,

Answer the following in the space below the question.

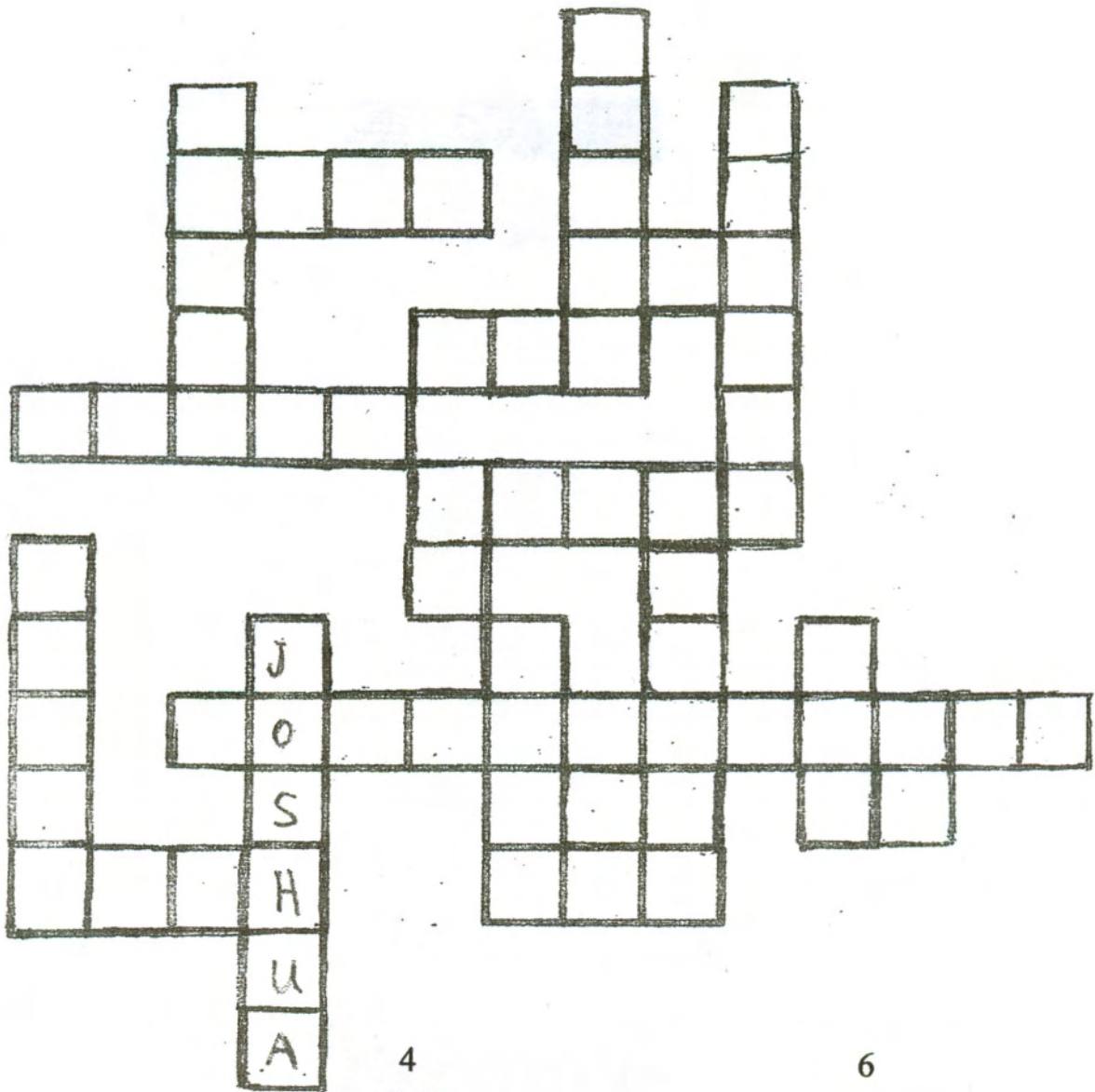
1. What did the Israelites want Aaron to do when Moses stayed on the mountain so long.
2. Did Aaron obey God's commands or did he obey men's commands?
3. Which 2 important commandments did the people break when they asked for a calf idol?
4. If we need to choose between what our friends want us to do or what the Bible says to do, which should we choose?
5. Why was worshipping a golden calf wrong?
6. What happened to the first tables of stone that God had written on?
7. What are some of the things that Moses, Aaron and the people did wrong at this time?
8. What did Moses do with the golden calf?
9. When Moses asked to see God, what did God tell him and what did God do?
10. Why were people afraid to see Moses when he came down from the mount the 2nd time?

CONNCT THE DOTS



Fit each word below into the diagram. The word Joshua has been filled in to start you off.

Hint - fill in the longer words first.



2
No
Do

3
Ten
Own
Sin
Fun

4
Calf
Dead
Yeah

5
Aaron
Moses
Idols
Drugs
Forty

6
Joshua
Golden
Dances

12
Commandments

God told Moses no one could see his face and live, but God did show Moses what he was like. Put the first letter of the pictures below in the blanks so we also can see what God is like.





