

THANKS

WEEK 4: NOV 23 & 24

The Point store is open this weekend!

Leaders, feel free to make whatever adjustments are necessary to make this happen. Thanks!

BIG IDEA

We can thank God for not giving up on us.

BIBLE

The Golden Calf: Exodus 32:1-35(John 14:15, Romans 5:8)

WHAT?

Countdown

Once it is time for class to start, begin the intro video. Instruct kids to clean up and then sit in their designated group spot. As kids sit down, Small Group Leaders should sit with the kids in their group.

Rules

1. Listen to your small group leader
 - Respect your leader and obey what they tell you
2. Treat others the way you want to be treated
 - Be a good friend
3. Have fun!

ACTIVITY: Thankful for Manna

This is our final week in our series called, *Thanks!* To help us continue to remember to be thankful, we are going to add our final pieces of manna to the poster with all of the different things and people that we are grateful for in our lives. So just like the previous weeks we will cut out a piece of "manna" and draw or write a different thing or person that we are thankful for.

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU:** *In each classroom will be a poster silhouette representing the Sinai Peninsula taped on the wall. Each poster will have "THANKFUL" at the top. Give your small group markers, crayons, scissors, glue, and "manna" shapes. Let each kid cut out a "manna" and draw or write what they are thankful for on it. Then put the*

manna on the desert floor on the posters (use this as a visual aid later on).

- *Have younger students draw pictures (1st-2nd grade).*
- *Words and sentences should be more complex depending on the age group.*
- *Think about things we normally forget about, like the air we breathe, the stars in the sky, and the grocery stores where we can buy food instead of having to grow it all from a garden.*
- *God has given us so much! It's good to take time to remember all of that we have and all that God gives!*

ACTIVITY: Review the Ten Commandments



This is our final week talking about the Israelites in the desert and the Ten Commandments. So to help us review the Ten Commandments, we are going to play a game!

- **INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOU:** *There are 20 pieces of paper with a part of each Commandment written on them (adults may have to participate depending on the number of students).*
 - **DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTIONS:** *If there are not enough people to do the partial commandments then there will also be 10 pieces of paper with one Commandment on each. Simply omit the partner portion of the following instructions if there are only enough kids for each to have an entire commandment.*
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tape a piece of paper with part of a commandment on each student's back. Make sure that the student does not see what is taped on his/her back! Then students ask one another for clues about what is written on their backs. Those answering cannot tell the person exactly what is written or which numbered commandment is on his/her back. They must only give clues and explanations! Once students know what their part of a commandment is they need to find their other half. When students find their partner, they should link arms. Then after everyone has found their partner, they should work as a class to put themselves in order of the Ten Commandments.*
- **How did you do at remember the Ten Commandments?**
- **Why do you think it is important to remember these commandments?**
- **Does anyone remember how we can summarize the Ten Commandments? How did Jesus say we could remember all of these commandments in just two commandments? Jesus said in Mark 12:29-31, Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with**

all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

STORY: Share a time when you have had to wait for something. ▲

- **Can anyone share a time when you have had to wait a long time for something?** Maybe you were so excited for a special present or event, or you had to wait in the car for a long time to get to a fun trip. Maybe you had to wait at the doctor’s office for a long time.
- **Why is it sometimes hard to wait for a long time?**
- It can be hard to be patient! Today, we’ll hear about when the Israelites were impatient and they made a bad choice.

SO WHAT?

THE BIG IDEA: We can thank God for not giving up on us. ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
 - *Ask the kids to give you a drumroll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.*
 - *Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections).*
 - *Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.*
 - *Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, ask someone to come up and read it.*
- This week’s Big Idea: **We can thank God for not giving up on us.**

BIBLE STORY: Exodus 32:1-35 ▲

- Last week, we learned about Moses getting the Ten Commandments from God. This week, we’ll hear about what else happened when he was on the mountain.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!*
- When Moses was on Mount Sinai, the Israelites got tired of waiting and became impatient. **Do you know how long Moses was on the mountain**

getting the Ten Commandments from God? He was up there for 40 days and nights. The Israelites were waiting and waiting . . . and waiting!

- They stopped putting their trust in God and decided to put their trust in a fake god, an idol. They convinced Moses' brother Aaron to take their gold jewelry and make something they could worship instead of God.

- **Does this remind you of any of the commandments?** They were commanded to keep God first and not worship idols. They disobeyed God, and it made God mad! But Moses asked God to forgive them, and God did forgive them and continued to lead them and love them.

- **Why do you think the Israelites chose to worship an idol after all God had done for them? Do you remember how God helped the Israelites get out of Egypt?** God parted the waters so they could walk through the sea on dry land. God did such amazing things for them, and even when they disobeyed, God was still with them.

- God still loved them, provided for them and gave them gifts, and helped them when they needed help. Even when they turned their backs on God, God was always with them. **Do you think God is always with us, even when we mess up? How do you know?**

- The Bible says we have all sinned. We've done things we shouldn't do.

Do we deserve a second chance? Even if we don't deserve forgiveness and gifts from God, we can have it anyways because God provided salvation through Jesus Christ dying on the cross and rising from the dead. God simply asks that we trust what He did for us. That's called grace.

- So we can thank God for not giving up on us and for saving those who trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

NOW WHAT?

VIDEO: What is Idol Worship? ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show *this*

- **FOR PRETEENS:** Ask them to name a celebrity some people idolize. Have them share what about that person makes others idolize them. Then, talk about why God is better and more important than those people.

- **What is an idol?** An idol is anything we value or love more than God.

- As you were watching this video, God may have brought to your mind some things you value more than God. If that happened, you can ask God to help you.

- The good news is God is patient with us. We can thank God for never giving up on us.

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15



- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- Jesus teaches us to love Him and obey His commands. God wants us to obey because God loves us and knows what is best for us. Obeying God's plan actually helps us to live better lives.
- In the story we heard today, the Israelites grew impatient waiting on Moses to come back down from the mountain and they started worshiping other things besides God.
- **Do you ever find it challenging to obey God?**
- **What are some things you can do to help show your love to God through obedience and putting God first?**

REFLECTION: Reviewing the Big Ideas



- Now let's think about all that we have learned over the last four weeks about God and the Israelites.
 - We learned how **we can thank God for providing for us**, like God provided manna and quail for the Israelites. We can be thankful that we can trust God, but **did the Israelites show trust in God by making the golden calf?** *No. They chose to not be patient and to not trust God's provision.*
 - We learned through the first four of the Ten Commandments that **we can thank God for being God**. However, by making the golden calf to worship **did the Israelites acknowledge (accept, recognize) God's character?** *No. They chose to forget who God is.*
 - As we learned about the six commandments, we learned **we can thank God for wisdom. Did the Israelites have wisdom when they created the golden calf?** *No. They acted foolishly and disobeyed God.*
 - Yet today, we learned that **we can thank God for not giving up on us. Did the Israelites deserve a second chance?** *No. They disobeyed God.* Even though the Israelites chose to disobey God, He chose to still love them and lead them into the Promise Land. But the Israelites still suffered consequences for their sin, because God is good and just (His character).

WORSHIP:



Use the worship videos to lead the kids in singing/dancing through 2 songs.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION ▲

- **Why did the Israelites want Aaron to make the golden calf?** (*They were impatient.*)
- **Why do you think Aaron chose to listen to the Israelites and build the golden calf?**
- **Why do you think God still loved the Israelites even after they worshiped the idol?**
- **How can we stand up for what is right even when others don't?**
- **Who is someone you can pray for this week who needs to learn more about the love of God?**
- **What is one way you can thank God for being God and for helping us?**

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:8 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verses in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read them!*

MEMORY VERSES: Psalm 56:3; Matthew 6:33 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Work on the memory verse together.*

PRAYER ▲

Take some time to pray together as a group.

Points: Kids get points for things listed below. Add weekly points and insert that number next to their name for the given week. ▲

- Dot Stickers 10 Points
- Bring your Bible to class 50 Points
- Memorize monthly verses 50 points/verse
- Attend Redeemer's Kids Class 100 Points
- Bring a friend who doesn't attend Redeemer's 100 Points
- **Weekly Postcard Points:** (*Put check mark next to each you've given them points for*)
 - Memorized Weekly Big Idea 50 Points
 - Read Bible Daily 100 Points