

# UNMERCIFUL SERVANT



**Worship Only God**  
**Exodus 20:1-4; 32:1-26**



**HEAR IT!**

Today's story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible. When God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, Moses was on the mountain for a long time. God's people, the Israelites, got tired of waiting. Let's play a game to see how they felt.

Explain that kids will close their eyes. When you say "go," kids start silently waiting until they think a minute has passed. When they think a minute has passed, they should silently raise their hands. Give the starting signal. Use a stopwatch or a clock with a second hand to time one minute, and then call time.

- How many of you raised your hands right when I called time?
- What was it like to wait for a minute to pass?

God's people got so tired of waiting that they decided maybe Moses wasn't coming back. Let's listen to what they did next.

Play ● "We Can't Wait" (track 7) on the Buzz CD.

- Why were God's people upset?

God's people made a golden calf out of all of their gold jewelry and called it their new god. They broke the first two commandments: worship only God, and make no idols.

- What does it mean to worship God?

To worship God means to put him first and praise him. We know that our God is the only real God. The Bible tells us that God is loving, so



**WE WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

Grades 1 & 2, Fall, Week 4, Group Publishing, Inc.

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**PLAY IT!**

Hello kids, Form two groups. We're going to play a game. One person will be "It" while the rest of the group forms a circle by holding hands. The group will keep "It" out of the circle. "It" can try to get in any way possible without hurting anyone. When "It" gets in, "It" chooses someone else to take his or her place on the outside of the circle. Let kids play until everyone had a chance to be left out.

- How did it feel to be left out?
- How did the Israelites leave God out in today's Bible story?
- How do we leave God out of our lives?
- How does God feel about that?

God should come first in our lives. Sometimes we put other things before God, but the Bible tells us that God should be first in our lives. God is loving, so



**WE WORSHIP ONLY  
GOD.**

Nothing else is as important as God.

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**SCULPT IT!**

Give each child a lump of Buzz clay.

**Here's how Aaron and God's people thought they could make their own god. First, Aaron told all the people to give him their gold earrings. We don't have gold earrings, but we do have clay, so give me all your clay. Have kids hand in clay. Then Aaron took all of the earrings, and he melted the gold together. Sculpt the clay into one big ball. Then he made a golden calf, or baby cow, out of the melted gold. Have kids work together to mold the clay into a cow shape. You may want to redistribute clay, have kids make the different parts, and then assemble them all. Tell the kids that the shape doesn't have to look exactly like a cow – even a blob shape will do.**

- **What do you think of our golden calf?**
- **What powers do you think our golden calf has?**
- **Do you think our golden calf is worth worshipping?**

Read Exodus 20:3-4. **The people broke these two commandments when they made and worshipped the golden calf. The Bible tells us that God is loving, so**



**WE WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

**God is the only one who deserves our worship. God was very angry with the Israelites when they worshipped the golden calf. Let's smash our golden calf and shout,**



**"WE WORSHIP ONLY GOD!"**

Let children smash the clay calf, and lead children in shouting.

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**SING IT!**

Have children sit in a circle on the floor.

**Let's think about what God is like. We'll roll this *Tangle* around the circle. When it comes to you, say something about what God is like or something God does. For example, you might say, "God is strong," or "God loves me." When you've said something, roll the ball to someone else. Each person will name something about God. I'll start. Ready?**

Name something about God, and then pass the *Tangle* to someone in the circle. If necessary, help the child think of a characteristic or action of God. Then encourage the child to pass the *Tangle* to someone else. As kids pass the *Tangle* around the circle, help them think of characteristics and actions of God. Also encourage them to make sure everyone gets the *Tangle* at least once. Continue until children seem to be running out of ideas. Then put the *Tangle* away.

- What's your favorite thing about God?
- How do we worship God?
- Why does only God deserve our worship?

God is loving, so



**WE WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**

We can worship God by saying nice things about him and by singing to him. Let's sing a song to worship God. Play ● "Are You Going to Praise the Lord?" (track 8). Lead kids in singing the song.

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**Do IT!**

Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Choose one child to be the leader.

Invite the leader to create a short rhythm pattern—for example, two claps and one slap on the knees—and demonstrate it for the group. Then go around the circle and allow each child to imitate the pattern. Play a few times, letting children take turns being the leader.

- **What was it like to follow the leader?**
- **How was following the leader like following God?**
- **How does following God show that we are worshipping only him?**
- **How can you worship God at school? At home?**

**God wants to be our leader and the most important in our lives. God wants us to worship him by listening and obeying him in everything we do. The Israelites forgot that and chose to worship a golden calf instead. Remember; God is loving, so**



**WE WORSHIP ONLY GOD.**