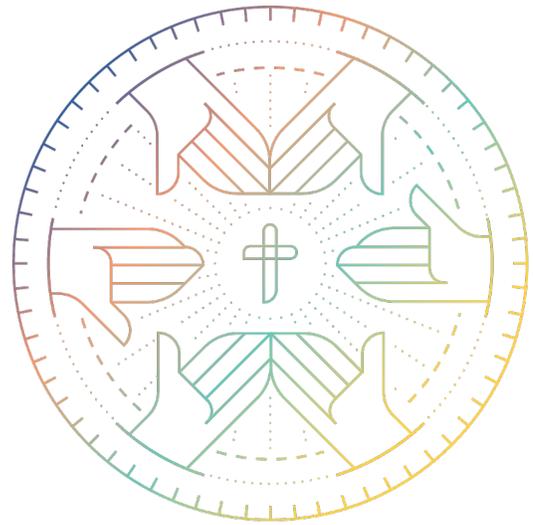


Group Life.

WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

No Turning Back: “Golden Calf: The Cure for Idols”
Scripture Focus: Exodus 32-34

ICEBREAKER

What's something you purchased or pursued that felt exciting at first but lost its shine quickly?

OR

Where are you most tempted to look for security, identity, or comfort when life feels uncertain? Explain why.

INTRODUCTION

Exodus 32 reminds us that idolatry rarely begins with rebellion—it begins with impatience. Israel didn't reject God outright; they supplemented Him. The golden calf was a visible, controllable substitute during a season of delay. Idolatry today works the same way. It's anything we allow to become the center of our happiness, identity, purpose, or security. The cure for idols is not just trying harder. It is encountering the grace and presence of God.

INTO THE WORD

1. The Drift Toward Idols

Read: Exodus 32:1-6; Psalm 106:19-22; Ezekiel 14:3; Romans 1:22-23. Why do you think the Israelites turned to an idol so quickly after experiencing God's power and what does this reveal about the human heart? What warning signs in your life indicate that something good may be slowly becoming ultimate?

2. The Power of Intercession

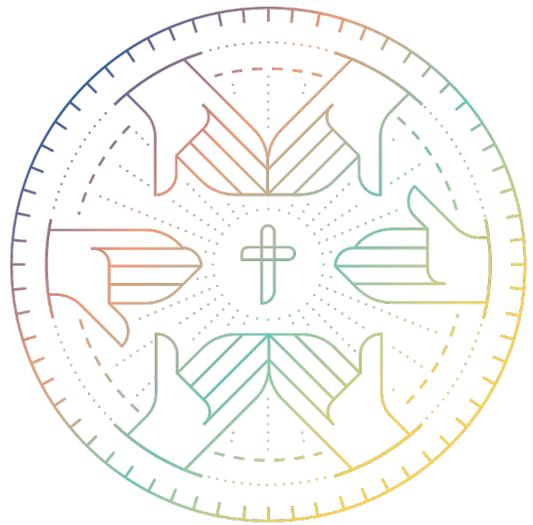
Read: Exodus 32:7-14; James 5:16; Hebrews 7:25. What does Moses' prayer teach us about the power and purpose of intercession? Who has God placed in your life that may need you to stand in the gap for them through persistent prayer? Write the names down and pause to pray over these names.

3. The Consequence of Sin and the Contrast of the Spirit

Read: Exodus 32:15-28; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Acts 2:37-41. Why is it important to understand both the seriousness of sin and the life-giving work of the Spirit? How have you experienced the difference between trying to change through willpower and surrendering to the Holy Spirit's transforming work?

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4. The Cure for Idolatry

Read: Exodus 33:4-6; 33:7-10; 34:6-7; Roman 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. What practical steps do you see in these verses for defeating idolatry? Which of the four steps — repent, remove, replace, rely — do you find most difficult, and what might obedience look like this week?

EMBRACE AND EMBODY

Idols lose their power when we encounter the presence of God. The golden calf glittered — but it could not forgive, restore, or satisfy. When God declared Himself merciful and gracious, everything shifted. When you experience the grace of God, idols don't look as shiny as they used to.

TAKE YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

(Prayerfully consider one of the following next steps)

- **Worship God:** Spend time meditating on Exodus 34:6-7 and thank God for His unchanging character.
- **Seek God Daily:** Confess any misplaced trust and ask the Spirit to search your heart (Psalm 139:23-24).
- **Make God Known:** Consider taking the next step of baptism.
- **Life Generously:** Loosen your grip on money or possessions by giving sacrificially.

GUIDED GROUP PRAYER EXERCISE: Replacing the Idol

Silent Reflection - Provide a sheet of paper and pen to each group member.

Step 1: Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that has become more central than Him and write down what He reveals.

Step 2: Name and Release - Confess and surrender that idol in prayer. Encourage group members to pray and confess specifically by saying "Lord, I repent of placing ___ above You. I surrender it." or by simply saying "I confess what you have revealed and I ask for forgiveness".

Step 3: Replace with Truth - Read Exodus 34:6-7 aloud. Then ask each group member to pray and affirm this truth: "God, You are merciful and gracious. You are enough for me."

Step 4: Step of Obedience - Write down one tangible act of obedience to take this week and share it with the group. Close your time by praying over those commitments.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You that You are unchanging in mercy and love. Reveal where we have exchanged Your glory for lesser things. Give us courage to repent, strength to remove what competes with You, and joy in replacing lies with Your truth. May Your grace shine brighter than any idol. In Jesus' name, amen.