

## **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **This Is Our Story - The Idol**

**Text: Exodus 32:1-**

#### **Warming Up**

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “idol?”
2. What idols are we tempted to worship?

#### **Digging In**

##### **Read Exodus 32:1-6**

1. Moses is gone for a long time. The people believe they have lost their access to THE LORD. They ask Aaron to make “gods” to lead and care for them. Why did Aaron agree to do this?
2. Pastor Craig noted that Aaron instructs the Israelites to rip the earrings from the wives and children (Exodus 32:2), while God has instructed Moses to ask for a free-will offering to build the Tabernacle (Exodus 25:1-2). What does this say about the worship of idols as opposed to the worship of THE LORD?
3. Aaron fashions a golden calf. Pastor Craig said this was probably a wooden idol overlaid with gold. Why would Aaron say, “these are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt” when he knew full well it was THE LORD?
4. Aaron declares a festival to THE LORD after he builds an altar before the idol. Can we confuse God with something that is not?
5. The raucous event that happens the following day may well have included sex acts. What does this tell us about the people of Israel, and the prohibition of the 2nd Commandment to not make idols?

##### **Skim Exodus 32:7-20**

1. What does Moses hear?
2. What does Moses do? Why does he break the stone tablets?

##### **Read Exodus 32:21-24**

1. What do you think of Aaron’s answer to Moses’ question?
2. Pastor Craig noted some ancient Mesopotamian people believed that the making of an idol by the artisans was a rehearsal of a mythological event where the god created the idol, and thus the idol and the god were now one and gave the priests and the people access to the deity. If Aaron was drawing on that idea does that help explain his actions, his declarations, and his explanation?
3. How does The Word pitch a tent with us today?

##### **Read Romans 5:1-2; Ephesians 2:11-18**

1. In both of these Paul declares we have access to God. What power are we tempted to seek to alleviate our fears, meet our needs, or achieve our goals?
2. What does it mean that we have access to God directly?

#### **Sending Out**

Our message is that God has come everyone can have direct access to God and have a meaningful relationship with God. And no matter what, God is with us.

#### **Closing**

The temptation to create and worship idols, even those we think represent the true God, come from deep within our brokenness. May we seek the filling of the Holy Spirit to heal our brokenness.

#### **Close in Prayer**