

# THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

FOUNDATION: GOD IS

## BIG TRUTH: THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 1 Kings 8:60; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Ephesians 4:6; Jude 25

## BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."*

## BIG IDEAS

- There is one God, and there are no other gods.
- God is over all things.
- Every good gift comes from the Father.

## BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 32

God revealed Himself as the one true God after the Israelites turned away from Him and built a golden calf. The Israelites forgot that God was the one true God and had to be reminded of this truth. There are no other gods.

## FOUNDATION: GOD IS

"God is" means that there is only one god in the universe. He alone is Lord over everything that exists, and He alone is worthy of our worship. This also means that every good thing that exists comes from God. All good things come from Him because goodness is a part of who He is as the one true God. It is a part of His nature and character to be good, and everything that comes from God is good. Thankfully God has not chosen to withhold His goodness from His creation, but instead gives it freely to us.

## BIG AIMS



### Every child should know that:

- There is only one true God, and He is good.
- We can know God because He has made Himself known.
- God alone is our source of life and joy.



### Every child should feel:

- Loved by God, and thankful for His love for us.
- Broken over the depth of our sin against God.
- Joy in Jesus, the only Son of God who came to save us.



### Every child should be able to:

- Memorize the Bible verse each week about who God is.
- Pray that God would open their hearts and minds to know Him more.
- Tell someone else a truth about God each week.



### Every child should want:

- Learn more about the God who has made Himself known.
- Repent of their sin and of the lies they believe about God.
- Cling to God as the source of truth.

## FAMILY DEVOTION: HEAR! THE LORD IS ONE

To be one is to be unique and one of a kind. God is the one true God. There are none like Him. He alone is God. All other gods are fake and can do nothing to help the people who worship them.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS  
THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD**BIBLE VERSE: DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7**

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."*

**God Is One.**

*"Here, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."*

- In these few verses, Moses is reminding the people of who God is. They are preparing to enter the Promised Land and before they do, Moses is preparing them to enter it with the right perspective and devotion to God. To worship God rightly, they must know and understand who He is.
- God is one God in three persons. The Israelites were about to enter a land full of people who worshiped many false gods. As a way of preparing them and reminding them of the truth, Moses taught them that the true God is one. There are no others. He is unique and He alone is the true, living God.

**God's oneness means that He alone is worthy to be loved above all others.**

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."*

- Because God is the one true God and there are no others, He alone deserves the love and worship of all people. The land the Israelites were about to enter was inhabited by people groups who gave their worship to idols that they created with their own hands. These idols were not real and did not deserve their worship or love.
- The fact that God is one and He alone is God means that He alone is worthy of all of our worship and love. Not only should we worship Him, but we should do it with our whole being. Everything in us should love Him and honor Him.

**God's people follow His Word.**

*"And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."*

- As Moses prepared God's people to live in their new land, he taught them to establish the commands of God in their hearts. They would have to remember God's Word and teach it to their children. It would be an essential part of their daily lives.
- All of God's people follow His Word. They know it and live it. They study it and learn it. They share it with others. Because He is the One true God, they obey His Word and seek to follow His commands because His Word is truth.

# FOUNDATION: GOD IS THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

## BIBLE STORY: EXODUS 32

### *The Golden Calf*

Supporting Scripture: Deuteronomy 6:4; Colossians 1:16-17; James 1:17

#### **Teacher Introduction:**

No one likes to wait long for anything. God's chosen people, the Israelites, had seen Him do mighty things. He had rescued them from their slavery in Egypt and parted the Red Sea for them, but when Moses, their leader, went away to speak with God, they grew impatient waiting for Moses to return. Moses delayed in returning and after forty days passed, the people decided to create a new god. They went to Aaron, Moses' brother, and asked him to make them a god. He agreed to their plan and took all of their golden jewelry, melting it down and forming it into a golden calf. He presented the calf to them, declaring that the calf was their god. They worshiped the calf as if it were the one true God. They gave it credit for bringing them out of Egypt and for providing for them. They turned their hearts far from the true God and defiled themselves. They rejected the only real God and worshiped a fake statue instead. When Moses returned from the mountain, he could hear them worshiping the calf. He grew angry and destroyed the statue by melting it. He crushed it and made the people drink the powder in their water. He then called out to anyone who would stand for the one true God. All of the men of the tribe of Levi came forward and Moses commanded them to go throughout the camps and to strike down brother and friend. That day three thousand people died because of their sin. God was angry with His people for forsaking them, but He proved that He is the only real God. The golden calf couldn't defend itself or the people. It could do nothing for the people. God is the only real God. He is above all others and the only one who gives good and perfect gifts. He alone is worthy of our praise.

#### **Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the story: The Golden Calf. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Exodus 32 and teach the truth that there is one God. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the children to think about and process the truth that there is only one God.

#### **Opening Illustration:**

Bring in a basket full of white cotton balls. Before class place one colored cotton ball in the basket. Ask the children to find the one cotton ball that is different from the rest. Hold the colored cotton ball up and tell them that the cotton ball is like God—it is one. There is no other like it. God is one God and there are no other gods.

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THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD**BIG IDEA: THERE IS ONE GOD, AND THERE ARE NO OTHER GODS.<sup>1</sup>****God is the only true God.**

- God's special people, the Israelites, rejected Him. While Moses was away on Mt. Sinai talking with God, they became really impatient. They didn't want to wait for Moses to come back to their camp with instructions from God.
- The Israelites asked Aaron, Moses' brother, to make a fake god for them. Even though Aaron knew he should not do this, he agreed to do it. He took all of their gold jewelry and melted it together. He used their melted golden jewelry to form a statue in the shape of a calf.
- They called this calf their god and began to worship it and treated it like it was the one true God.
- God is the only true God. He is one God and there are no others.



Give the children a ball of playdoh and ask them to create an animal from their playdoh. As they are creating their animals remind them that there is only one true God. Once they create their animals allow them to share what their animal is and then allow them to squish their animals back into a ball if they want.

**All other gods are fake, or false.**

- When Moses returned, he discovered the people of God worshiping a fake god. They had rejected the real God and forgotten Him. Instead, they were worshiping a fake god that wasn't even real.
- Moses was angry with the people and destroyed the golden calf by melting it in fire and crushing it. He made the Israelites drink the dust from the melted calf as part of their punishment for worshiping a false god.
- Their fake statue couldn't save itself, nor could it rescue them from the punishment they suffered for disobeying the true God.
- The golden calf was a fake god. There aren't any other gods because God is one and the only true God.

**God is the only Savior.**

- The Israelites praised the golden calf as if it were the true God. They acted as if it had saved them from the Egyptians and taken care of them as they left Egypt, but the golden calf did nothing for them.
- Only the true God is the Savior. The golden calf couldn't save itself, much less the Israelites.
- Even when we try to create other saviors, we will fail just like the Israelites. There is only one God and one Savior.

*Why did the Israelites create a fake god? (They grew impatient waiting for Moses to return from Mt. Sinai.)*

1. Deuteronomy 6:4: God is one. There is only one God and no others.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS  
THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD**BIG IDEA: GOD IS OVER ALL THINGS.<sup>2</sup>****God is the beginning of all things.**

- God has no beginning. This means that He is not a created being. Everyone and everything else is created. Everything else has a beginning, but not God.
- Before the Israelites created their golden calf, they had been chosen by God to be His people. He was the One who rescued them and called them out of their slavery in Egypt.
- He made the heavens and the earth. He made all that is in the earth.

**God is greater than all other beings.**

- God is mightier than any other being because He is the source of all life. Because He is the Creator of all things, He is the highest of all beings.
- Man can create idols and false gods, but those gods will never be greater or higher than God.
- God is mightier and holier than any other being.
- He is the greatest because He's the only one of His kind. There is no other being like Him.

**God is above all things.**

- No one is like God. Because He is all-powerful and all-knowing, there is no one like Him.
- He is above all others. He not only controls all things, but He is greater and worthier than any other.
- He is the only being who deserves all honor and praise.

*How do we know that God is over all things? (The golden calf was easily destroyed.)*



Gather the children in a circle and pass a small flashlight around the circle. Ask the children to turn the flashlight on by commanding it to turn on. Next, ask them to click the button that turns the flashlight on. Once every child has a chance to click the flashlight on, tell them that we don't have control over things like God does. Remind them that God has control over all things. He is over all things and above all things.

2. Colossians 1:16-17: All things are created through God and for God. He is above all things and before all things. He is the beginning of all things.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS  
THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD**BIG IDEA: EVERY GOOD GIFT COMES FROM THE FATHER.<sup>3</sup>****God is a good Father.**

- The Israelites forgot what a good Father God was to them. They forgot that He had rescued them from their hard time in Egypt. They forgot that He had protected them and fought for them.
- They forgot how much He loved them.
- God is a good Father. He is a good Father because He is good. He is perfect and all that He does is good. He doesn't do anything bad or ugly. He is always good.



Bring in a basket of toys. Gather the children in circle and ask them to take turns choosing a toy from the basket. Ask the children to identify the toy as a good toy or a bad toy. Separate the toys into "good" and "bad" as the children identify them. Once every child has a chance to choose a toy, talk with them about how every good gift we receive in this life is from God. God is always good and gives us good things, not bad things.

**God gives good gifts to His children.**

- God had given the Israelites good things. He had given them a good leader, Moses. He had promised them a home, the Promised Land.
- He had provided safety for them. They forgot these things and worshiped a fake god instead.
- The Israelites said that the golden calf did all the things that God did, but the golden calf really didn't do anything for them.
- God is a good Father to His children now. He gives good gifts to them. He provides for them and protects them.

**God's children don't deserve His goodness.**

- The Israelites didn't do anything to earn God's love or goodness. He chose them to be His people because He wanted to. It wasn't because of anything they did.
- God's children don't do anything to deserve His good gifts. He gives good gifts because He is a good Father.
- Even though the Israelites were disobedient and rejected Him, He was still a good Father to them and disciplined them and guided them.
- Every good thing we have is from God the Father.

*Who gives us good things? (God is the only One who gives good things to us.)*

3. James 1:17: Every good thing we have comes from God the Father.

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## HOOKS

**A Good Father**

Give the children a blank piece of paper and have them draw a picture of a family. As they draw their pictures, ask the children to name some of the things that make fathers good. Help them think of things, such as protecting us from scary things, giving us hugs when we are sad, teaching us to ride our bikes, etc. Tell the children that God is a good Father because everything He does is good. Read the following Scripture to them as they finish drawing their family pictures: 2 Corinthians 6:18.

**God Is One**

In a basket, place multiples of the same objects, such as several small cars, blocks, markers, etc. Choose one object to be your stand-alone object, such as a small ball. Place one of these objects in the basket. Tell the children to explore the objects in the basket and to count how many of each object they find in the basket. When they finish, point out that there is only one ball. Hold the ball up and tell them that the ball is the only one like it in the basket. Tell them that God is one God; there are no others. Remind them that all other gods that people create, like the golden calf, are all fake.

**Over All Others**

Lead the children in a time of singing. Sing songs that praise God for being the true God. Remind the children that God is the one true God and for that He is over all other beings.