

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 11th October
Seventh Sunday of
Kingdomtide

Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.



Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of the Golden Calf.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Exodus 32:1-14

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23

Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23

Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of the Israelites and the Golden Calf. Help us to trust and rely on you even when we can't see you. Thank you that you are always with us.

Help us to put you first in our lives, to choose to follow you and not be tempted to make other things more important than you.

We pray for all those in the world who don't know you yet, who put their faith and trust in things which are not secure and reliable. We pray that they would come to know you as their saviour and friend.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think the Israelites asked Aaron to make them a new god?

Moses had travelled up the mountain to speak with God and he had been gone a long time. Last week we read about Moses receiving the 10 commandments in Exodus 20, this week are reading from Exodus 32 – that's 12 whole chapters later. The 12 chapters in between are all God sharing his instructions with Moses. The Israelites thought Moses was gone and without him to instruct and lead them they quickly slipped into sinful behaviour. They knew they needed somebody to follow, but instead of waiting patiently and trusting in God they decided to make their own false god to worship.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when it felt like you had been forgotten by God?

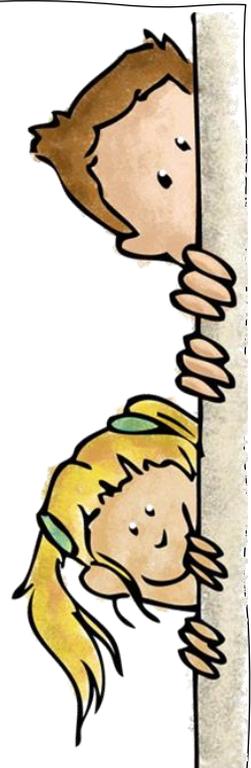
What reminded you that God was with you?

Family Activity 1

Play a game of Hide and Seek together, take it in turns to be the person who counts and then searches for everybody else around the house.

Moses was out of sight talking with God on Mount Sinai and the Israelites were worried that he had gone completely. We know that even though we might not be able to see God He is still always with us.

In these challenging times there might be other people we aren't able to see in person at the moment, but we know that they are still there.





A verse to remember

Philippians 4 v 6

Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks.

The Israelites has been brought through so much by God but rather than trust in Him they worried that they had been abandoned in the wilderness and tried to create their own false god. We can choose to trust in God, to ask Him for the things we need and to say thank you to God even in the most difficult times. Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Active Thanks

Our verse to remember this week reminds us to “always give thanks”! Why not try some of these active thank you activities together.

Alphabet Thanks

Can you think of something to say thank you to God for which begins with each letter of the alphabet?

Rainbow Thanks

Can you think of 7 things to say thank you to God for – one for each colour of the rainbow?

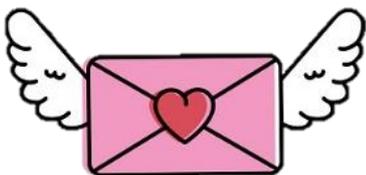


Bedtime Thanks

Before you go to bed why not list all the good things that have happened during the day which you can say thank you to God for.

A Message of Thanks

Who are some of the people who bless and encourage your family? Why not send them a message of thanks to let them feel appreciated and valued this week.



Family Activity 2

You will need – a tray of random items from around the house, a towel or scarf

Moses asked God to remember his promises in spite of the sins of the Israelites. Use this ‘Kim’s Game’ to test your own memories.

Lay a range of items from around your house on a tray or table, give everybody 1 minute (or less) to memorise as many objects as they can. Cover over the objects with the towel and remove one item, but make sure nobody can see what you have taken.

Who can be first to work out which item is missing? Take it in turns to be the person who removes an item and see who can get the most points.



Helping Older Children

In these challenging times we might be asking the same question as the Israelites: “where has God gone?” The Israelites had always relied on Moses to speak to God for them and when they were left alone they struggled with what to do. It is important to equip our children to have their own personal relationship with God.

The big problems of the world might seem daunting and impossible to fix but Philippians 4 v 6 reminds us that we should not worry about anything! No problem is too big for God, but no problem is too small either. Why not encourage your child to start small today, praying and sharing their tiniest concerns with God? If we build habits of prayer with our little worries then when we have larger concerns it will be our habit to bring them to God too.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

Philippians 4 v 6

Do not
worry

about anything,



but pray and ask

God for everything

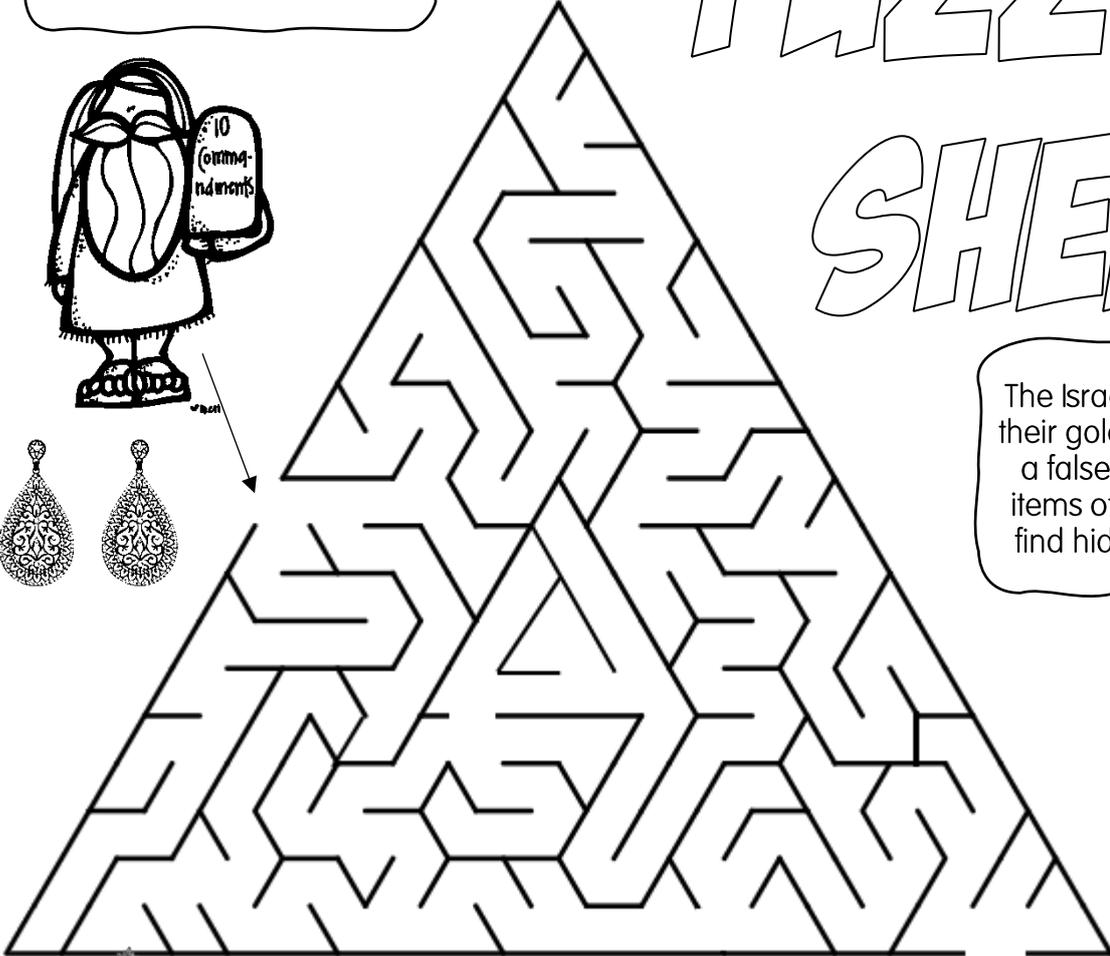
you need, always



giving
thanks.

Help Moses find his way down the mountain and back to the Israelites!

PUZZLE SHEET



The Israelites melted down their gold jewellery to make a false god— how many items of jewellery can you find hidden on the page?



Join the dots to reveal the false god which the Israelites made to worship!

