

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Read Exodus 32:1. Pastor Mark said: It is when we are stressed, scared, discouraged, or exposed that we are most tempted to turn to idols. Have you ever experienced this in your life?
- b) All sin is idolatry. Do you know your “sacred cow?” Can you identify the things/people you turn to that you think will satisfy or give your life meaning?
- c) Sin can be disobedience, distrust, or distortion. The Israelites disobeyed God’s clear commands, they distrusted his heart, and they distorted their view of God. Discuss an area of your life (present or past) where you have fallen susceptible to one of these?

1. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) Read Exodus 32:10. What do you think about God’s anger/wrath?
- b) Pastor Mark said, “You can’t have a God of love without a God who gets angry.” Does this make sense? Discuss.

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) God brings judgment on his people, but does not destroy them completely. What does this tell us about the character of God?
- b) Moses prays that God would forgive the people and if not Moses offered to be blotted out of God’s book (v. 32-33)? How does Jesus fulfill this mediator role?
- b) How does knowing that Jesus has made full atonement for our sin free us to live a life of faith and obedience?

APPLICATION

- a) As a Christian, the more you find your satisfaction, identity, & hope in Christ alone, the more you will find idols to be unappealing. Share ways that help you remember these gospel truths.

PRAYER

- Praise God for his mercy, love, and grace.
- Confess ways that you have looked to idols for satisfaction and hope.
- Thank Jesus for taking the cost of your sin upon himself.
- Ask God to help you to do good FROM grace.