Preschool–Grade 5

The Golden Calf Craft

The two tables of stone · Exodus 32:1–20 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



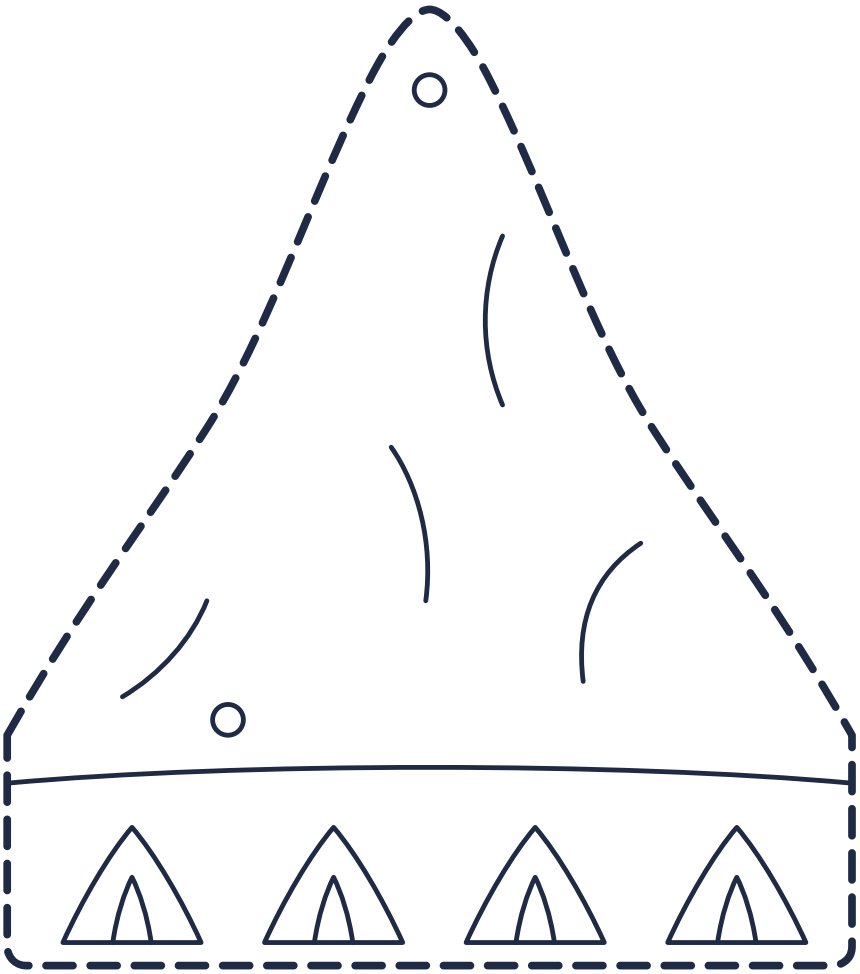
Harder

Medium (left): a brown paper mountain with four tan tents and dark brown doors at the bottom. A white yarn runs from a hole near the top of the mountain down to a hole above the tents, and two gray tables of stone with lines for God's writing sit on the yarn near the top, ready to slide down to the camp. Harder (right): the same mountain stands up on a paper stand, with a gray rock on the right side where a child drew Moses praying in the window.

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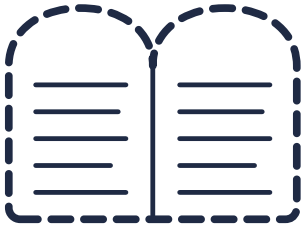
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Mountain: brown · tents: tan · doors: dark brown

Punch a hole in each of the two small circles.
The yarn goes from the top hole down to the bottom hole.



Two tables of stone

(Exodus 32:15–16) color them gray
Tape the straw on the back.

Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Exodus 20:3 (KJV)

Verse strip

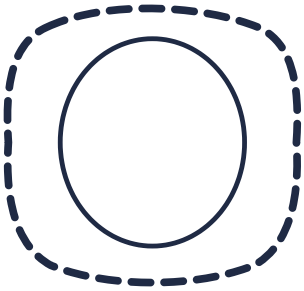
Glue it on the back
of the mountain.

Color the mountain brown, the tents tan, the doors dark brown and the tables gray. Cut out the three pieces. Punch the two holes. Tape the straw on the back of the tables, thread the yarn from the top hole through the straw to the bottom hole, and tape both ends on the back. Glue the verse strip on the back.

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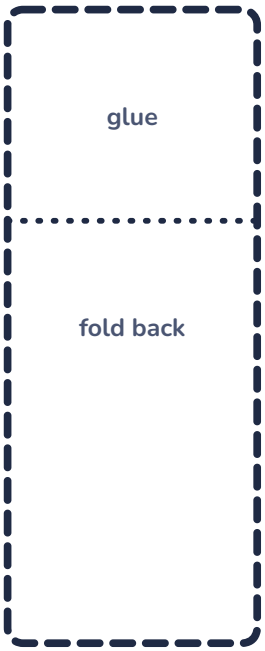
Name: _____

✂ Harder level



Rock with a window

Color the rock gray. In the window, draw Moses praying for the people (Exodus 32:11). Glue it on the right side of the mountain.



Stand

Glue the top part on the back of the mountain, under the verse strip. Fold the rest back on the dotted line.

How to add the rock window and the stand

1. Make the mountain and tables from page 2.
2. Color the rock gray. In the oval window, draw Moses on the mount, praying for the people (Exodus 32:11–13).
3. Cut out the rock and the stand on the dashed lines.
4. Glue the rock on the right side of the mountain, above the tents, so it does not cover the yarn.
5. Glue the top part of the stand (above the dotted line) on the back of the mountain, under the verse strip. Fold the rest of the stand back on the dotted line, so the mountain stands up.
6. Tell the story: Moses prayed, and the LORD did not bring the evil He had spoken of (Exodus 32:14). Then slide the tables down to the camp (32:15). Say Exodus 20:3 from memory.

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vbshq.com

For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/golden-calf-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown, tan, dark brown and gray crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, clear tape, a hole punch (or a sharp pencil for the teacher), and for each child a piece of drinking straw about 1 inch long and 18 inches of white yarn. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, plus any colors for the drawing in the window.
Before class: cut the straws into 1-inch pieces and the yarn into 18-inch pieces. For preschoolers, cut out each child's pieces, punch the holes, tape on the straw and thread the yarn. Make one finished craft to show the kids.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out the pieces, punch the holes, tape the straw on the back of the tables and thread the yarn. Kids color the mountain, the tents and the tables. You glue the verse strip on the back. Slide the tables down together and say, "God gave Moses the tables. Only God is God!"
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the three pieces, tape on the straw, thread the yarn and glue the verse strip on the back. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make it like the medium level, then add the rock window and the stand from page 3. Kids draw Moses praying in the window, glue the rock on the right side of the mountain, and glue the stand on the back so the mountain stands up. They say Exodus 20:3 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

Why there is no calf: kids never make or display an idol. The template shows what God gave: the two tables of stone (Exodus 32:15–16). **Why there are no people drawn:** the template draws no people. In the harder level, kids draw Moses themselves in the rock window. If kids ask how, suggest a man with a beard in a long robe, kneeling or with hands lifted, praying.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the mountain brown, the four tents tan and their doors dark brown. Color the two tables of stone gray, and leave the lines for God's writing.
2. **Cut:** cut out the mountain, the two tables and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Punch:** punch a hole in each of the two small circles on the mountain.
4. **Straw:** tape the piece of straw straight up and down on the back of the tables, in the middle.
5. **Yarn:** tape one end of the yarn on the back near the top hole. Push the yarn through the top hole to the front, through the straw, and through the bottom hole to the back. Pull it snug and tape the end on the back.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the mountain and read it together.
7. **Tell the story:** start with the tables at the top and slide them down the yarn to the camp (Exodus 32:15).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the top of the mountain. How long was Moses on the mount with God? *(Forty days and forty nights, Exodus 24:18)*
- Point to the camp. Why did the people ask Aaron to make them gods? *(They saw that Moses delayed to come down, 32:1)* What did Aaron make from their golden earrings? *(A molten calf, 32:2–4)*
- Point to the tables. What was on them? *(They were written on both sides, and the writing was the writing of God, 32:15–16)*
- Slide the tables down to the camp. What did Moses see when he came near the camp? *(The calf, 32:19)* What did he do with the tables? *(He cast them out of his hands and brake them beneath the mount, 32:19)*
- Harder level, point to the window. What did Moses do for the people? *(He prayed for them, and the LORD did not bring the evil He had spoken of, 32:11–14)*
- Turn the mountain over. What does Exodus 20:3 say? *("Thou shalt have no other gods before me.")*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** tables = flat pieces of stone, like tablets; testimony = God's law, His words to His people; graven = carved; molten = made of melted metal; brake = broke; beneath the mount = at the bottom of the mountain.
- **What the Bible says:** Moses went down from the mount with the two tables in his hand, and they were written on both sides (Exodus 32:15). The Bible doesn't say what color the mountain or the stone was, so kids color them brown and gray.
- **Preschool:** do all the cutting, punching and threading ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **If the tables won't slide:** pull the yarn a little tighter and tape it again, and tilt the mountain so the top is higher than the camp.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free golden calf lesson for kids and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/golden-calf.

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