

**Rebellion Against
the Redeemer**
For groups meeting
January 10-16, 2016

WELCOME (15 minutes)

- **Ice Breaker:** What's a possession you have that meant a lot more to you when you obtained it than it does now?

WORSHIP (10 minutes)

- Sing #12, "Only King Forever" from the **2016 Small Group Worship CD**.
- ***If you still need CD or lyric sheets be sure to connect with Jay or Mary ASAP!***

WIN (15 minutes)

- **PRAY** for your list of people who need to know Jesus as their Savior!
- **PLAN** something to do to reach out to these people (The Super Bowl is coming!)

WORD (25 minutes)

Read: In this session we watch how Israel's sinful idolatry leads to a distortion of true worship and brings about God's righteous condemnation. Idolatry is dangerous because it distorts our view of God and corrupts our behavior, leading us away from God as He has revealed Himself and toward a false god who is powerless to save and transform us. We also see how Moses stepped in between God and the people and interceded on their behalf.

Read: "Idolatry is the most discussed problem in the Bible...There can be no believing communities without an unswerving eye to the detection and destruction of idols." - Os Guinness & John Steel

Have everyone open their Bibles to Exodus 32.

Point #1 – Idol-worshippers distort true worship – Have someone read 32:1-6.

Discuss: Israel distorted true worship and fell into idolatry for the same reasons we do – we don't want to be told what to do! This tendency goes all the way back to Eden. This distorted worship shows us the importance of knowing God for who He truly is and not how we imagine Him to be. Worship is built on a right perspective of God revealed through Scripture. A.W. Tozer said, "The essence of idolatry is to entertain thoughts that are unworthy of Him." Why is it important that our opinions about God match up with the reality of God's revelation of Himself?

Discuss: Like Israel, we will also fall if we distrust the purposes of God. The people said they didn't know what happened to Moses – but they knew where he was! They

simply didn't trust God's purposes. Notice the reason for their idol-making: They grew frustrated with Moses' extended absence. Instead of trusting God's purposes, they moved on without Him. The same is true for us. God hasn't given us a script, but He says, "I will be with you. Trust Me. Trust in My timing. My purposes are good and best." How can we help each other turn to God in faith during difficult times instead of to idols?

Point #2 – Idol-worship deserves God's condemnation – Have someone read Ex 32:7-10.

Discuss: Any created thing can be an object of idolatry. We become like what we worship. (Have someone read Psalm 115:4-8) The Israelites become dumb and spiritually lifeless like the idol. They become corrupt and nasty like cattle. Psalm 106 says they exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass (v. 20). Notice that they became "stiff-necked" and stubborn like unruly cattle. Like cattle they were out of control. Hosea 4:6 says, "For Israel is as obstinate as a stubborn cow." What are some choices we make that come from a wrong view of God?

Read: "Idolatry is worshipping anything that ought to be used, or using anything that is meant to be worshipped. - Augustine (354-430)

Point #3 – Idol-worshippers need a mediator – Have someone read Ex 32:11-14.

Read: One thing that we learn about prayer from Moses' example is that, as sinners, we need a mediator – and we have the ultimate one in Jesus (see 1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus, the mediator greater than Moses, turned away the wrath of God from us through His intervention. Have someone read 1 John 2:1-2. Without Jesus' work, we would all be justly condemned and consumed!

Discuss: Moses appealed to God's character and faithfulness in his prayer for mercy for the people. And notice that God responds to Moses' prayer. Those with a high view of God's sovereignty often struggle with prayer. Yet God responds to prayer! How much time do you devote to praying for other people?

Read: "Let our prayer be that God may advance His work, not for our glory – not for our sake – but for His beloved Son whom He hath sent." – D.L. Moody (1837-1899)

For next time encourage your people to read Exodus 19 and 20.

WORKS (25 minutes)

- Break into smaller groups of **2 or 3's of the same gender** to pray for each other.