

God's Plan – Moses & The Golden Calf

“Worship Only God”

OPENING:

- Every day we are faced with challenging or difficult situations. Some may be easy to resolve. Others, can feel like you're carrying a giant weight and cannot even move. Your circumstances may seem heavy and overwhelming.
- But as we have been learning through the lives of Isaac, Joseph, Jacob and now Moses - God is always faithful and will carry us through.

Today we are going to talk about being Faithful to God. Putting Him first in our lives.

Pull out the Golden Calf Craft sample.

Check out this awesome animal I just made! Pretty cool huh? You know what, maybe this animal has special powers. What do you think? *(Let kids answer.)*

You're right. This animal is just something I made out of paper. There's nothing special about it, and it certainly doesn't have any special power. Wouldn't it be silly to think that something *I made* with my own hands would have power?

Well, that's kind of what happens in the story we'll hear today.

Explain to the kids that this represents a statue like the one that will be in our story today.

- Explain to the kids that each time you hold up the statue, they have to freeze like a statue. They must hold their frozen statue pose until you are no longer holding the statue up in the air.
- Do this multiple times as you tell today's lesson so encourage them to pay close attention.
- Hold up the statue: Who can tell me what this is? (Give time for answers.) That's right, it's a statue. (Hold it up and kids freeze.)
- How many of you have statues. (Hold it up and kids freeze.) in your home? Have you ever seen any statues in parks around the city? Perhaps you've seen a statue of a famous baseball player or an artist or author.

- Statues are fine unless they become something that we worship other than God. (Hold it up and kids freeze.)
- When we do that, the statue becomes an idol that replaces our God.

Let's read about the Israelites and what they did:

Read: "God's Commandments", "A Golden Calf", and "The Tent of Meeting" from The Action Bible.

- **Ask:** Who remembers the name of the man that went up on the mountain to talk to God? (*Moses.*)
- **Say:** Moses was up on Mt. Sinai for a very long time, while the Israelites waited down below. After awhile, they began to think Moses was not coming back, so they started to get anxious.
- **They were thinking.....**"if Moses didn't return, who would lead them out of the desert? How would they get to the Promised Land?" So, they came up with a plan.
- **Ask:** What was their plan? What did the people want Aaron to do? (*Make a god that they could worship and who would lead them.*)
- **Ask:** What was wrong with their plan? (*God is the one true God. He has commanded us not to worship any other gods! The people had fallen into idolatry by asking for Aaron to make a god for them to worship.*)
- **Say:** Aaron gave in to what the people asked him to do. He told them to give him all their gold jewelry, which he melted down and formed into the shape of a calf. (*Show the picture of the golden calf.*)
- **Ask:** What can this calf do? (*Nothing.*)
- Could it lead the people out of the desert? (*Nope.*)
- Was it powerful to save them from their enemies? (*No way!*)
- **Say:** It was not only ridiculous, but sinful for the Israelites to worship the image of a calf that Aaron had created.
- **Say:** While Moses was still in God's presence, God knew what the people were doing down below. God told Moses that the people had already forgotten about Him, and He would destroy them because of their sin. Moses knew that he had an important job to do, to speak to God on behalf of the Israelites.

- **Say:** Instead of destroying all the people, God listened to Moses and decided to save them.
- Do you remember our main point? Let's say it together.
Main Point: *Where sin is great, God's grace is greater.*
- **Say:** Moses came down the mountain carrying the two tablets that God had inscribed with the 10 commandments. When Moses saw the Israelites worshipping the golden calf he got so angry that he threw the tablets to the ground, breaking them into many pieces.
- He couldn't believe that the people were so quick to forget God even after all God had done for them.
- Moses then burned up the golden calf with fire, ground it into powder, and poured the powder into the drinking water and made the Israelites drink it!
- **Ask:** Do we ever forget God? *(Allow time for kids to respond.)*
- **Say:** Forgetting God doesn't always mean creating a golden calf to worship. Sometimes forgetting God means **thinking we don't need Him or that He's not powerful enough to help us.**
- The Israelites had forgotten God, and their forgetting led them into sin.
- **Ask:** Does anyone know what a mediator is? *(Someone who is in the middle-that speaks on behalf of someone else.)*
- **Say:** Moses was a mediator for the Israelites. He stood in God's presence and spoke to Him for them. He would also listen to God and tell the people what He had said. God listened to Moses, not because Moses was perfect or without sin, but because God had chosen him to be the mediator. Moses loved and cared about his people, but even he couldn't take away their sin. He could only talk to God and ask God to have mercy on them.

- **Ask:** Did you know that we have a mediator today?
- **Say:** We don't need Moses as a mediator because **we have Jesus!**
- He is the man in the middle, with God on one side and us on the other.
- Jesus is the perfect mediator because He is completely sinless, and He is the only One Who can take our sin away.
- God's grace is so much bigger than our sin. Even when we do really really bad things, we can never sin so much that Jesus's sacrifice can't cover us.
- The Israelites did a really really bad thing in worshipping the golden calf, but God still forgave them and loved them as His chosen people.
- **Say:** When we declare that Jesus is our King, and we give our lives to Him, He takes away our sin and makes it possible for us to have a real relationship with God!
- That's exciting news! We can thank God today for His incredible grace in our lives.
- We sometimes put other things before God.
- It could be money, friends, sports or our favorite video game.
- Anytime we put other things before God it's like saying He is not important.
- Anything we put ahead of our love for God can become an idol and that is a big mistake.

So, what is the main point again of our lesson?

- **Where sin is great, God's grace is greater**

Review the 10 Commandments:

1. Put God first
2. No fake gods
3. Respect God's name
4. Respect God's day of rest
5. Respect your parents
6. Do not kill people
7. Respect marriage
8. Do not steal
9. Do not lie
10. Do not be jealous

Prayer:

Dear God,

We want to always trust and obey you. Help us to remember what You have done for us in the past and to trust you in times of trouble.

Memory Verse:

But you must honor the Lord. You must always serve him with all your heart. Remember the wonderful things he did for you! 1 Samuel 12:24

Watch Video Stories:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aX28nAB4S7A&list=PLjuRHkK1UDY2Py8x37jjL_4sd-f2x_V77&index=35

The Ten Commandments & the Golden Calf by Crossroads Kids

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/407181862717/veggietales-moe-and-the-big-exit>

– Moe & The Big Exit

Crafts: No Idols/Golden Calf

Jesus Loves Me plaque

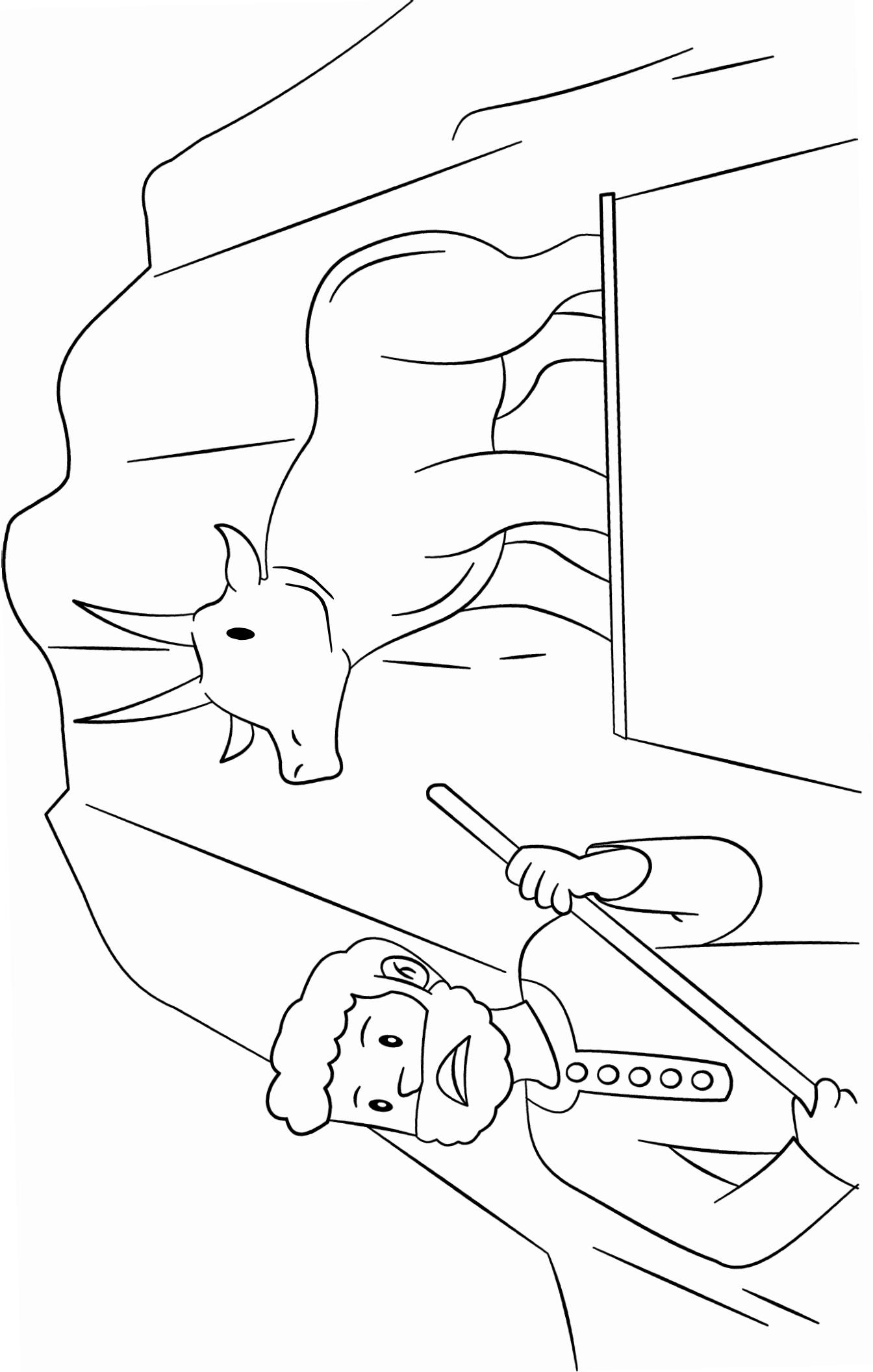


Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ Teacher Chrissy

Thank you to <https://sermons4kids.com/> and <https://ministry-to-children.com/>

for their lesson and Church House Collection & amazon.com for craft ideas





The Golden Calf

So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Exodus 32:3-4a (NIV)

Complete the activity below.

At the bottom of the page is a list of words. These words are hidden in the puzzle. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, and diagonally. When you find a word, draw a circle around it.

X M V A Q N Y O B B K I X N M
I O Q O S Q V C W P U H D I G
I D J D L K M X M B G R M O R
E R E P E N T O Q N P Q N A L
A Y I D S B S X S I C D M T L
R O F K A W N S H E J E U F X
R F Z M Q A H S I E S X B D E
I F C Y H E R Q F Q G H F A Y
N E Y S B O A A A J Y L A Z H
G R I V W V B A L I A Q N B B
S I K P Y F L R T C I A G H C
P N J B E O O O A X X A E N Y
Y G H Y F Y T N R U J H R X Y
O O D F Q J U G O L D E N N Q
R T X U P X D T G X D I C D D

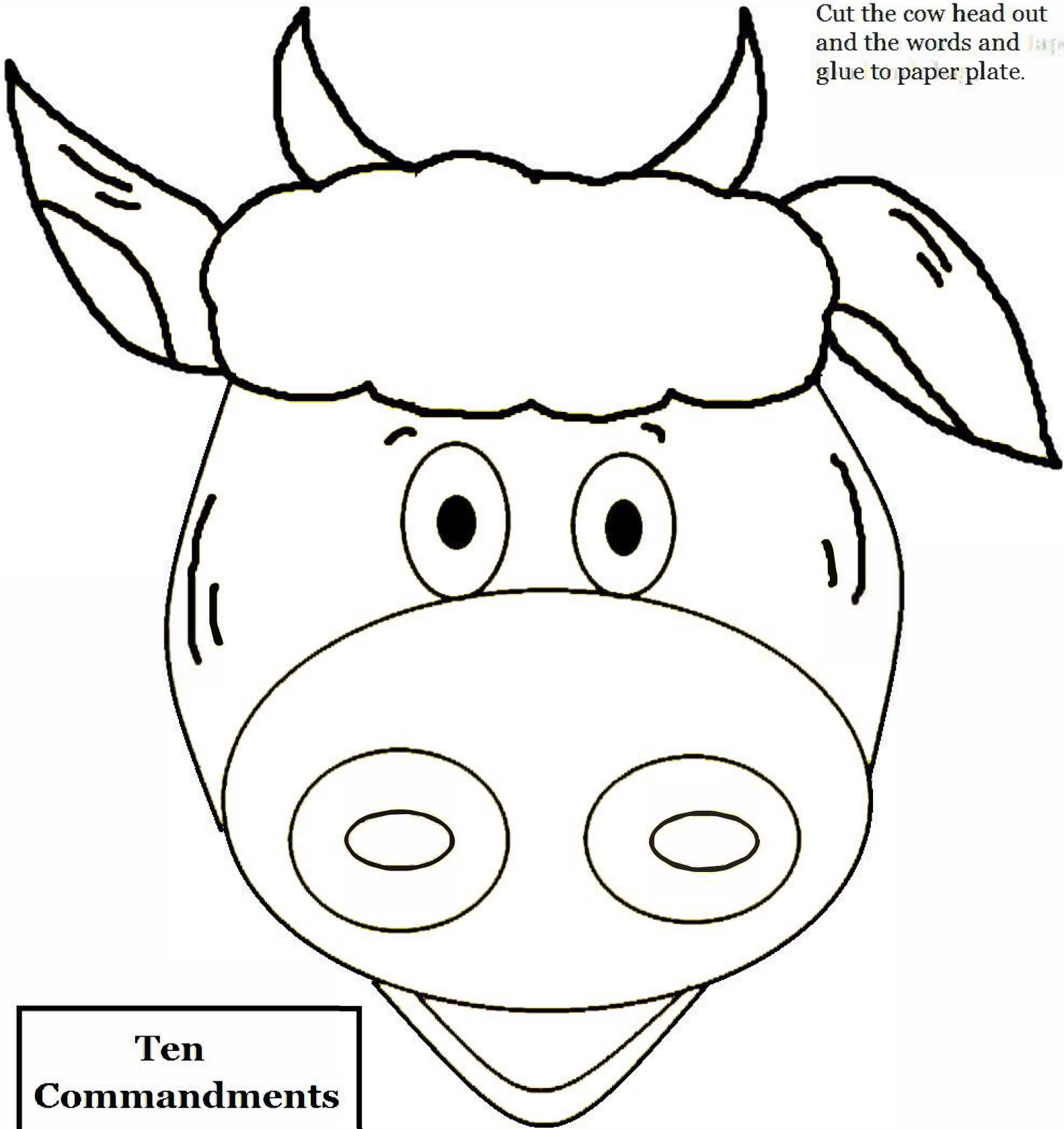
EARRINGS
OFFERING
MOSES

GOLDEN
AARON
WORSHIP

IDOL
CALF
ANGER

REPENT
ALTAR
BURNT

Cut the cow head out
and the words and
glue to paper plate.



**Ten
Commandments**

Commandment #2
**Thou Shalt Not Make For Yourself
A Graven Image. Exodus 20:4**

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