DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Israelites—God's people whom He rescued from slavery in Egypt. God kept all His promises, and the people put their trust in Him and became bonded to Him through the covenant of the law at Mount Sinai.

WHAT?

The covenant at Mount Sinai was similar to a wedding between God and His people. The Israelites immediately broke their vows and cheated on the God who had been faithful to them. They worshiped another god and created a graven image—breaking one of the Ten Commandments.

WHERE?

God led the Israelites out of Egypt and into the desert. They went to the foot of Mount Sinai, which is the same place Moses met God at the burning bush years before. Mount Sinai is also called Mount Horeb in the Bible.

WHEN?

It had been three months since the Israelites left Egypt. As a consequence of their sin, 3,000 people died (Exodus 32:27–28). By the time of Jesus, the biblical holiday of Pentecost was associated with the giving of the law at Mount Sinai.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

The Israelites expected their God to be like other gods. God forbade them from making a created image because the exact image of God would arrive in the person of Jesus. When people look at Jesus, they see the God worthy of worship.

Object Lesson: Exploring Jewelry

SUPPLIES: various shiny objects (such as toy jewelry, jewels, gems, coins)

Welcome! We're going to talk today about when some people used beautiful jewelry to make a statue. And this statue made God sad. We'll learn all about it in our story. Let's look at some jewelry and get curious.

Show the kids a variety of play jewelry, gems, or jewels. Let them feel them and look at them. Ask them what they see. Ask them what the jewels feel like. Be sure to use items that are large enough that they can't be swallowed. Watch kids closely and be aware of any choking hazards.

Activity: Creative Worship

SUPPLIES: Bible, coloring utensils, paper/butcher paper to cover table, colorful scarves, music shakers

In God's big story today, we'll talk about how we can worship God. *Worshiping* God means showing Him we love Him and telling Him how wonderful He is.

Give kids a variety of items to share throughout the activity. Invite kids to use the items in different ways to worship God.

Items can include the following:

- Bible (reading about God)
- Coloring utensils and paper (coloring)
- Colorful scarves (dancing)
- Music shakers (playing music)

We can worship God in lots of ways! We can tell Him that we love Him and that He is amazing. We'll learn more about it today in our story. Our Wonder Truth today is: WE CAN WORSHIP GOD.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

WE—*Point to yourself.*

CAN WORSHIP—*Cup hands around mouth.*

GOD—*Point up.*

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible Story Picture

Our part of God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about God's people and a leader named Moses. Encourage the kids to say, "Moses." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Moses and God's people.**

Use the script provided. Use the Bible Story Picture to give kids a visual depiction as you tell the story.

While I tell the story, you can help by acting out some parts of the story when I tell you to. God did amazing things for His people. Moses and God's people made a promise to worship God. Have kids lift their hands up high. **Moses went up to the top of a mountain to listen to God.** Have kids pretend to climb a mountain. **Moses was gone a long time. God's people didn't know what to do.** Have kids walk around the room looking for something. **Then God's people wanted to worship something they could see. Moses' brother Aaron made a statue, or idol, out of jewelry. God's people broke their promise and they worshiped the statue.** Encourage kids to make a sad face with you.

The people said they would only worship God, but they worshiped an idol instead of God. This was a bad choice, and it made God very upset.

But God is faithful and He loves His people. He didn't give up on them. God always keeps His promises and He loves us. Encourage kids to make a happy face with you. **We can worship God and show Him He is the best!**

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, Think Again Word of Wonder Slide

WORD OF WONDER

God is faithful. That's who He is.

—from 2 Timothy 2:13

Our Word of Wonder for the Think Again series is from 2 Timothy 2:13. Let's practice saying the Word of Wonder together. Open a Bible to 2 Timothy 2:13 and practice the verse with the kids

- **GOD—***Point up.*
- **IS FAITHFUL.—***Give two thumbs-up (one on each word).*
- **THAT'S WHO—***Put your arms out in front of you, palms up (one on each word).*
- **HE IS.—***Point up (once on each word).*
- **FROM 2 TIMOTHY 2:13—***Hold your hands open in front of you, as if holding a book.*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. When I say, "love," give yourself a hug. When I say, "worship," lift your hands up high.

God, we <u>love</u> (give yourself a hug) You! **Thank You for <u>loving</u>** (give yourself a hug) **us. We'll <u>worship</u>** (arms above your head) **You and only You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you know that God is always faithful and He always keeps His promises. May you know that He loves you, and you can worship Him. May you know God and love Him more and more.

Activity: Praise Dance

SUPPLIES: variety of musical instruments (we only have bells & egg shakers), can play worship music from phone or TV

Today we learned we can worship God. God is always with us and always loves us. Let's worship God by dancing and playing music! Remember, we can always worship God! Worshiping God is telling Him that we love Him and that He's wonderful. Play some instruments or sing and dance to worship God.

Give kids musical instruments and encourage them to dance to the music as they praise God. You can play music from the playlist.