

Home Discipleship

Family Activities

Q: What is idolatry?

A: Idolatry is trusting in created things rather than the Creator.

Key Verse: Romans 1:21,25

Key Passage: Romans 1:18-25

Music: For each question there is a song that can be found on the New City Catechism App. Listen to the song for this question and sing it as a family. Songs have a unique way of helping ingrain truths into our hearts. Look up “trust in the Lord with all your heart” or follow this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EN7Lwved3n8>

Coloring Activity: Coloring is a fun activity for all ages. And a great way to spend time thinking deeply about the spiritual truths that we have talked about today. On page three of this document is a coloring page referring to the worshiping of a golden calf in Exodus 32. Read this story with your kids and talk about why the people were wrong for worshiping this idol.

Memory Activity: Another great way to ingrain this truth into your family is to practice memorizing it with different activities.

Write the memory verse or catechism question and answer on sticky notes, one word per note. Make sure there are enough sticky notes with words on them for each child. You may need to make multiple sets if you have a big family. Give each child a sticky note, and then ask everyone to stick them to their foreheads. Help the children to work out the verse or answer and get themselves in the right order. Have them shout out their words individually, and then have the group say it together.

Discussion Questions: Discuss a few of these questions as a family to help everyone think deeper about their own lives with this doctrinal truth.

1. What is something that you tend to put ahead of God?
2. Why do you think we always desire things of this world?
3. At what point does something become an idol?
4. How can we prevent idolizing things of this world over God?



Teaching Activities: Teaching activities are meant to help reinforce the idea in the catechism question. Be sure to be asking kids questions as you do these activities to be sure that they see the connection.

Activity #1: Gather a selection of things that people are tempted to turn into idols. This activity will work well with a selection of miniature toy things. For example, you could use a toy car or some clothes made for a Barbie. Find things to represent; money, adventures, cars, food, house, romance, friends, celebrities, education, technology, fashion, sports, travel.

Give each child a piece of paper and a marker. Explain to the children that this activity will help them to think about some modern-day potential idols. Place the representative items on a tray or table under a cover. Invite the children to come and look at the items on the table for thirty seconds. Then cover the items up on the table again. Have the children write down as many things as they can remember in a set period of time. Uncover the items again, and see how many items the children remembered.

Highlight to the children that these items represent some of the things that people idolize (or put before God) in the world today. Comment that the people who idolize these things would never forget them though, because they love them and mistakenly trust them to bring lasting happiness. Things that are loved so much can never be far from a person's mind. Be sure to explain that none of these things are wrong in and of themselves. They become a problem when they take the place of God in our lives.

Activity #2: One way to figure out what our idols are is to ask what makes us angry if it is taken away. Do they fight with their siblings over toys? Do they fight with friends at school over another person? These may be clues for potential idols. Have your children draw a comic book style story in which someone realizes their idolatry toward an item and worshipping God instead. Use the template on page four.

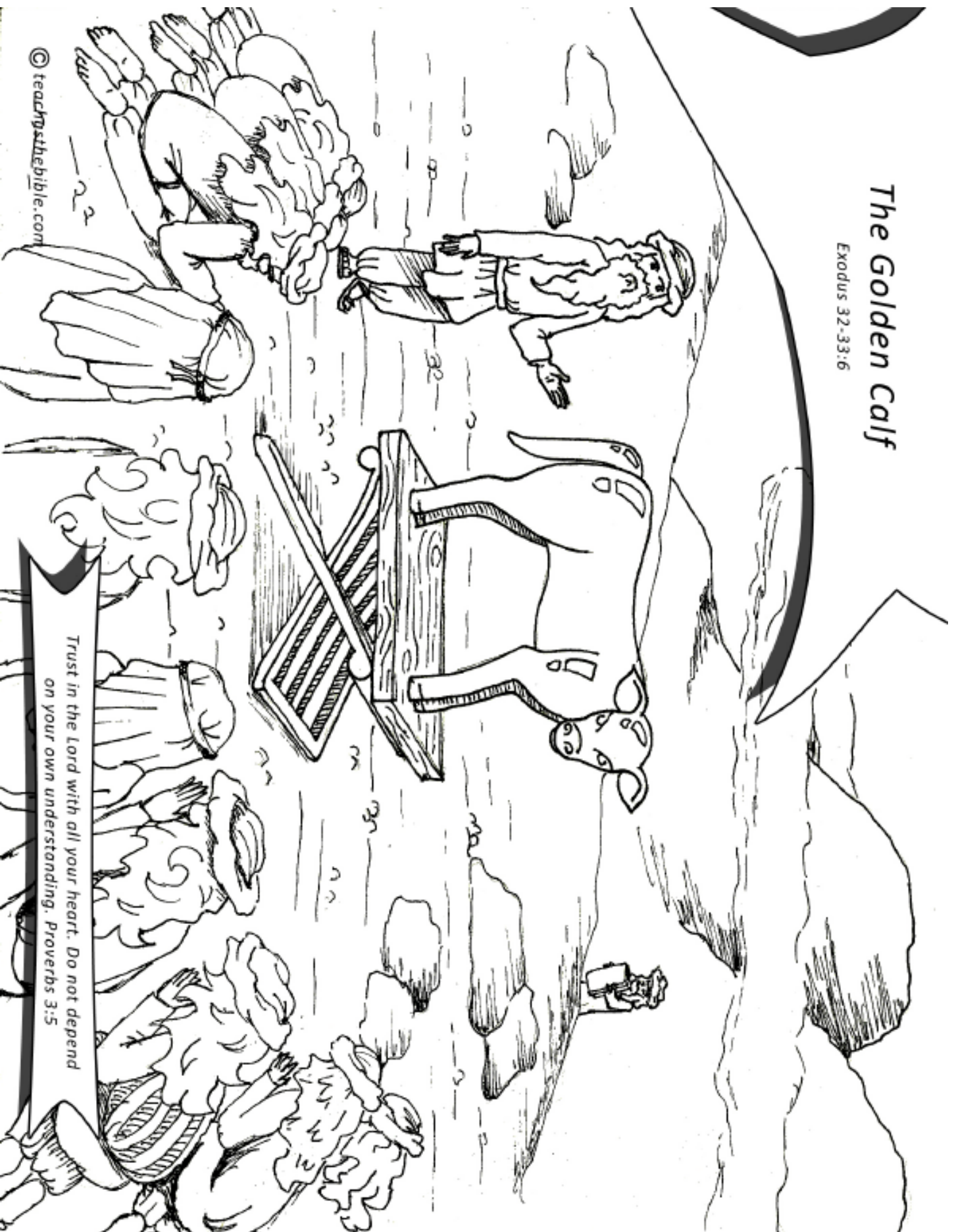
Activity #3: Encourage your kids to organize a schedule for their day. Have them write down different things that they regularly do on a daily basis. As they create this schedule spend some time looking at different things that take up their day. How much time is given to God each day? How much time is given to video games? How much time is spent as a family? How can God be made the Lord of your life?

Pray: Take some time as a family to pray. Family prayer time is an incredible way to grow with one another and enjoy our God together! When you pray, ask God first for forgiveness for not putting him first in your life. Ask Him for help to keep him first in your life over specific things that you may value to the point of idolatry. Ask Him for help to desire Him more. Use this prayer time to praise Him for who He is and spend specific time worshipping Him as your God.



The Golden Calf

Exodus 32-33:6



Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend
on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

