



Today, we turn to Exodus 32 to conclude our study in the incredible Old Testament book of the Bible. We're skipping 12 chapters from last week to this week as we wrap up 21 weeks in Exodus together. So, in the end, we've covered much of the book of Exodus, but not all of it. In the chapters following the Commandments, God continues to lay down a few chapters worth of laws for the people, alongside instructions about the covenant between Him and Israel. Eventually, God begins to lay down instructions for the Tabernacle too. In Exodus 32, Moses goes up to Mount Sinai to meet with God. Israel does a few surprising things, as shown below when you consider all they have experienced in the previous chapters in Exodus. What you're going to see is that when the people of Israel are squeezed, some bad things happen. Today's study is titled: "Don't Be Like This."

**Key Passage:** Exodus 32

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Exodus 32:1 tells us the people were tired of waiting on Moses; they didn't know what happened to him, so they looked for a god who would go before them. What is it about waiting that often brings out the worst in us?
2. Where did Israel get the gold they used to fashion the golden calf? What does this teach us about the tendency toward idolatry in our lives? How can we guard against the tendency to misplace worship in our lives?
3. How does Aaron's failure to lead effectively serve as a cautionary tale for leaders in any context, including the workplace and your home?
4. What insights can we gain from Moses' intercession for the Israelites in verses 11-14 about the nature of God's mercy and covenant relationship with His people?
5. Aaron's excuse-making in verses 21-24 highlights a typical tendency: avoiding responsibility. Why are we prone to shift blame? How can we cultivate a spirit of accountability in our own lives?
6. Describing the Israelites as stiff-necked suggests a pattern of stubbornness and resistance to God's guidance. How are you likely to experience a stiff neck in your life? What steps can we take to cultivate a spirit of humility and receptivity to God's voice?
7. Reflecting on the consequences of the Israelites' lack of restraint, how can we maintain healthy boundaries and self-control in our own lives?

8. What lessons can we draw from the tragic outcome of the Israelites' disobedience for our spiritual journey and relationship with God? How can we ensure that our hearts remain faithful and steadfast in our walk with God amidst the pressures and temptations of the world?