



EXODUS

IDOL WORSHIP

**Man was made to
worship God.
Any substitute for
God will fail.**

A. W. Tozer





LENT

EXODUS READINGS

SERMONS

KEY MOMENTS

Week 1

Ch 1-4

#1 - Cries of the Oppressed
#2 - Responding to the Call

Slavery in Egypt
Moses at burning bush

Week 2

Ch 5-10

#3 - God's 10 acts of Salvation

10 plagues confront Pharaoh

Week 3

Ch 11-16

#4 - From Slavery to Freedom

Passover
The Exodus
Crossing the red sea

Week 4

Ch 17-22

#5 - The 10 Commandments

Grumbling in desert
Meeting God at Mt Sinai
10 commandments

Week 5

Ch 23-28

#6 - Preparing the Tabernacle

Instructions to build the Tabernacle
Moses on Mt Sinai

Week 6

Ch 29-34

#7 - Idol Worship

The Golden Calf
Rebellion and covenant renewal
Commandments 2.0

Week 7

Ch 25-40

Building the Tabernacle
God's glory fills the Tabernacle

When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. “Come on,” they said, “make us some gods who can lead us. We don’t know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt.”

² So Aaron said, “Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me.”

³ All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, “O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!”

⁵ Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, “Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!”

⁶ The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.

⁷ The LORD told Moses, “Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves. ⁸ How quickly they have turned away from the way I commanded them to live! They have melted down gold and made a calf, and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it. They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ ”

⁹ Then the LORD said, “I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation.”

¹¹ But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God. “O LORD!” he said. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? ¹² Why let the Egyptians say, ‘Their God rescued them with the evil intention of slaughtering them in the mountains and wiping them from the face of the earth’? Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you have threatened against your people!

¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You bound yourself with an oath to them, saying, 'I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. And I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.' "

¹⁴ So the LORD changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

¹⁵ Then Moses turned and went down the mountain. He held in his hands the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant. They were inscribed on both sides, front and back. ¹⁶ These tablets were God's work; the words on them were written by God himself.

¹⁷ When Joshua heard the boisterous noise of the people shouting below them, he exclaimed to Moses, "It sounds like war in the camp!"

¹⁸ But Moses replied, “No, it’s not a shout of victory nor the wailing of defeat. I hear the sound of a celebration.”

¹⁹ When they came near the camp, Moses saw the calf and the dancing, and he burned with anger. He threw the stone tablets to the ground, smashing them at the foot of the mountain.

²⁰ He took the calf they had made and burned it. Then he ground it into powder, threw it into the water, and forced the people to drink it.



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Moses mediates for the people

How do we deal with idols?

v20 He took the calf they had made and burned it. Then he ground it into powder, threw it into the water, and forced the people to drink it.

Jesus is Lord

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Substitutes for God: Four meta-desires



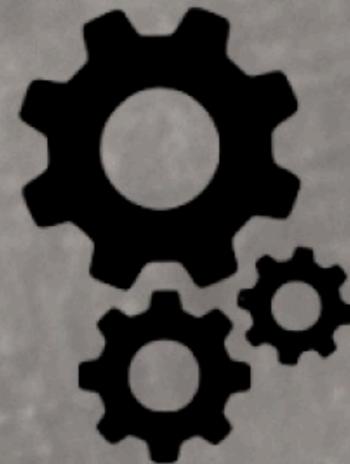
POWER



APPROVAL



COMFORT



CONTROL

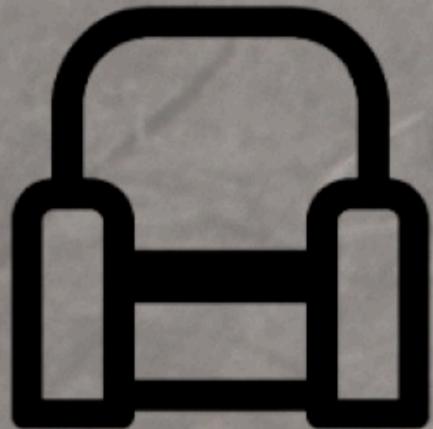
Substitutes for God: Four meta-desires



POWER



APPROVAL



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CONTROL



HOW TO DEAL WITH IDOLS

PRAY

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES trains our body to be with God

GROW

CHURCH PARTICIPATION increases self-awareness

REACH

SERVING OTHERS leaves no room for idols

1. 'Man was made to worship God. Any substitute for God will fail.' (A. W. Tozer). What do Australians often idolise in place of God?
2. Read Exodus 32:1-20. What does this story tell you about God? What did you learn about people?
3. Ps Caleb described four meta-desires: Power, Approval, Comfort, Control. Which one is your greatest challenge? Which are common idols that offer to fulfil these desires as a substitute for God?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS