

## Wednesday

Read: *Exodus 32:7-10* God loses patience

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why was God so angry?*
2. *Why does God tell Moses that he'll be the first of a great nation to come?*

**Prayer Focus** Forgive us, steadfast God, for failing to remember our covenant with you. We know how bad it can get if we lose our way and insist on going it alone. Center our lives on you, above all.

## Thursday

Read: *Exodus 32:11-12* Moses pleads with God

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why do you think Moses argued that God will lose face with the Egyptians if God destroys the people?*
2. *Have you ever begged God to reverse a situation in your life? What was the result?*

**Prayer Focus** Thank you, listening God, for your wisdom in choosing Moses, who trusted you and boldly asked for your mercy. We choose today to be in relationship with you, to speak and to listen and stay fully connected to you.

## Friday

Read: *Exodus 32:13-14* Disaster averted

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *How do you feel about the idea that Moses changed God's mind?*
2. *What promise from God do you most long for today?*

**Prayer Focus** All wise and forgiving God, you challenge us to let go of our fears and rely on your faithfulness. We commit to being like Moses and openly stand for others, because we are yours and you have asked us to help fulfill your promise to the world.

## *A Hard Way Forward*

Pastor's message: *Exodus 32:1-14*

Message Notes:



## Small Group Format

### Welcome

- Introductions/getting acquainted
- Mutual Invitation question: *Briefly, when are you most impatient? How do you deal with waiting?*

### Opening Prayer

### Song (optional)

### Reflection on Scripture

Have someone read: **Exodus 32:1-14**

- Discuss observations about the text
  - *What word or phrase strikes you the most?*
  - *What do you think is the most important point of the text?*

*Application of Scripture (The central transformative questions)*

- What did you hear God say to you through this week's Scriptures?
- What are you doing about it?
- How can we support you?

### Share your faith (in groups of 3)

- *How have you experienced God recently in your life?* (This is a weekly question - it may be difficult to answer at first, but if you ask it each week you may start to notice God more in your life.)

### Pray for each other

### Refreshments (optional)

## A HARD WAY FORWARD

October 15, 2023

### Monday

**Read: Exodus 32:1-4** *The people lose patience*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why were the people so impatient with Moses?*
2. *Why did the people turn to Aaron for help?*

**Prayer Focus.** You are the god of mountains and we are an impatient people. Help us face our fear of loss and abandonment. Calm our restless need, so we can avoid the temptaion to give in to the world and its gold.

### Tuesday

**Read: Exodus 32:5-6** *The golden calf*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. *Why was building a new altar important to Aaron and the people?*
2. *What do you think Aaron had in mind when he built an altar and threw a big party?*

**Prayer Focus** Holy One, sometimes it's hard for us to see you acting in our lives. We turn away or we beg for "that old time religion" that's familiar, even if it isn't the best way forward. We will try to remember that you move in your own time, not ours.