



Lesson 11

Our Perfect Representative

Intermediate Small Group Lesson

<p>Bible Story</p> <p>The Golden Calf</p> <p><i>Exodus 31:18 to Exodus 34:35</i></p>	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name tags• Snacks• How Are You Feeling? emoji chart• Six obstacles (rocks, books, cups, cones, beanbags, etc.), and a blindfold• Index cards• Pens• A piece of wood or stone• An object to represent a modern “idol” (e.g. an iPhone, a video game, a DVD, a car key, a dollar bill, a famous music/TV star, football, etc.)• Sheets of 8 1/2-by-11 inch copy paper, one per person• Colored markers
<p>Bible Verse</p> <p>“Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.”</p> <p><i>Jude 24, New Living Translation</i></p>	
<p>Key Teaching Point</p> <p>Receive the perfect mediator.</p>	

Small Group Session 1

(15 Minutes)

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while students eat their snack:

Icebreaker Options (Choose one):

- Ask students to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Let students take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" emoji chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- As the students are eating their snacks, ask, **Do you find it difficult to believe something if you don't see it or experience it for yourself?**

Pray Together

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

Small Group Game: Minefield

Preparation: six obstacles (rocks, books, cups, cones, beanbags, etc.), and a blindfold

Children must make it safely through the minefield blindfolded without stepping on any obstacles. Give them verbal instructions from the other side (i.e. two steps forward, one step forward with your right foot, shuffle one step to the left, etc.) If a child steps on an obstacle, they will need to start over.

Small Group Session 2

(35 Minutes)

Life Application Activity

Ask, **"What is important to you? What do you enjoy? How do you spend your time, or money, or energy?"** Let students share their ideas and write them on index cards. (Examples: Family, friends, God, church, schoolwork, sports, movies, TV/music, etc.)

How would you put these in order of importance?

Tell students to arrange the cards in order of what they think should come first in their lives.

All of these are good things. I really like to spend my time on _____ too! But God says that he is the most important thing in our lives, and he

should be put above everything else that we love. God is number one, and second place doesn't even come close!

Move index cards labeled "God" to the top.

Show a piece of wood and a stone. Say, **"Since the beginning of the world, people have been looking for the most important thing in their life to love above all else. Some people even make images out of wood and stone to create an idol that they can pray to and worship. In ancient Israel, the people worshipped a golden calf (cow) named Baal instead of the LORD. Can an image made out of wood, stone, or gold help you? Does it deserve your love? Your time? Attention? Money? Why not?"**

Take student response.

Now display an object to represent a modern "idol" (e.g. an iPhone, a video game, a DVD, a car key, a dollar bill, a famous music/TV star, football, etc.) and say, **"Many people today don't worship images made out of wood, stone, or gold, but we definitely have a lot of things in our life that we can be tempted to make more important than God. Worship is about love. Ancient people worshipped idols because they wanted to please the gods so things would go well with them. They worshipped idols out of love for themselves. People today worship all kinds of idols out of self-interest too. Some people even worship God because they want to get something from him. That's no different than worshipping an idol! God wants us to worship Him because we love him."**

What consequence did the Israelites face because of their idol worship?

Take student responses.

What did Moses do on their behalf?

Take student responses. (He prayed to God and asked him to have mercy on the people. He even offered himself in their place!)

Just as Moses offered himself in the place of the people, Jesus offers himself to God to face the punishment that we deserve for our idol-worship.

What did Moses ask them to do with the idols they had made?

Take student responses. (He told them to crush their idols!)

Receive the Gift!

Confession: Admitting that we need God’s help and turning from our own ways to follow and trust Jesus.

Give each child an 8 1/2-11 inch sheet of paper. Invite them to write GOD in big bold letters. Using their index cards from the previous activity, have them place the cards on top of the sheet until GOD is covered.

Idols take our eyes off God.

Close in a prayer. As you pray, remove the cards from their sheets of paper.

As kids open their eyes, emphasize that just like Moses had the Israelites crush their idols, Jesus takes our idols away, and restores our relationship with God.

Bible Verse Game

Review the Bible verse with a [Bible verse game](#).

“Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault.”

Jude 24, New Living Translation

Reflection

Give each child their reflection journal. Invite them to reflect on the following questions and to record their answers in their journal. They may also draw their responses if they wish:

1. What gift can I receive from God?
2. How can this gift impact my life?