

Substitution

Though God must always respond to sin justly, God's people are spared His wrath because of the perfect substitutionary work of Jesus.



GOD'S STORY
THE TRANSFORMATION FOR ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Exodus 32:30-35

April 19, 2020

(Exodus 32:30-35) ³⁰The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." ³¹So Moses went back to the Lord and said, "Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. ³²But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written." ³³The Lord replied to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin." ³⁵And the Lord struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

COMMUNITY – CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER

- A substitute is someone or something that takes the place of the original. What are some everyday situations in which people use a substitute?
- What are some examples of a substitute not being as good as the original?
- What are some examples of a substitute being better than the original?

CONTENT – EXPLORING GOD'S STORY

Have a volunteer read Exodus 32:30-32

- What do you know about the word "atone"?
- How does verse 32 provide context for Moses' goal in returning to God?
- What similarities are there between Moses' role and the work of Jesus in this action?

Have a volunteer read Exodus 32:33

- Why was Moses' offer of atonement insufficient for the sins of Israel?
- How was Jesus different—and better—than Moses as a substitute for sin?

Have a volunteer read Exodus 32:34-35

- What does God's response and direction to Moses tell us about His commitment to His people?
- God punished Israel for their sin, but not by death, like those who rejected Him directly. How was God able to withhold full punishment without compromising His holy standard?

COMMISSION – ENGAGING IN GOD'S STORY

- Think of times in your past when you didn't receive the full punishment deserved by your actions, from God or from others. Have you acknowledged these times and thanked God for the grace you received?
- How does the contrast of the severity of sin and the grace of God in this story compel you to tell others about the gospel?
- How does knowing and trusting that Christ is our substitute change how we treat others?
- Who could you share the good news of Christ with this week?

PRAYER: Pray and thank God for sending Jesus as the perfect substitute in your place. Thank God that you have not received the full consequences of your sin because of Jesus. Ask for a heart of thankfulness for the gospel, and a desire to share this good news with others.

CONTINUE TO JOURNEY THROUGH GOD'S STORY

Bible Reading Plan:

DAY 1 – Leviticus 23

DAY 2 – Leviticus 26

DAY 3 – Numbers 11-12

DAY 4 – Numbers 13-14

DAY 5 – Numbers 16-17

KEY VERSE: Leviticus 26:13

H.E.A.R. Method:

Highlight a verse or two.

Explain what the text means.

Apply the verse to your life.

Respond to God.

Our team has put together Bible study resources to encourage and inspire you as you engage in God's Story. Visit chetscreek.com/gods-story for videos, study guides, and more.

OUR VISION

To be a church
for the unchurched,
here and around the world.

ADULT LIFEGROUPS

Gospel-centered communities that aim to KNOW
GOD together and BE CHANGED by Him in a
way that will CHANGE THE WORLD.