

Godly Play Script

Godly Play is a creative, innovative and experiential way of helping both children and adults engage with the stories in the Bible. Before using a Godly Play script for the first time read the document [How to Use Godly Play](#) which also tells how to find more help if Godly Play is new to you. You will need to allow time to gather the materials and objects needed for the script and also to practice telling the Godly Play story. If time permits after the Godly Play session is complete you can also make use of the [Action Scene](#) picture which tells the story of the golden calf. The [Action Scene instructions](#) give guidance on how to use the Action scene to best effect. The activities can be adapted to suit time and resources available.

Godly Play Desert Gold Box

DESERT GOLD BOX

You will need

- Small shoe box with loose lid, wrapped in gold paper. Label the box: *Desert Gold Box*
- Piece of yellow material representing the desert
- Playdough recipe
- Yellow playdough – enough for two portions for each child, plus extra
- Brown playdough – enough for two portions for each child
- A5 size photocopy of [golden calf sheet](#) for each child

Invite the children to sit in a circle. Bring out the box and place it in front of them.

Leader: Gold is a very precious metal. Can you think of anything that is made from gold? Well, in this gold box, we have a story about instructions. The instructions are from God. I have some instructions for you too, so that we can make the story together. And we will need gold in the story. Let's see if we can find any....

Open the box and carefully and slowly take out the yellow material and spread it on the floor in front of you, smoothing it. Invite the children to respond as you say, 'I wonder what this could be?' Accept all possible answers with, 'Yes, it could be that.'

Leader: Let's remember how the Israelites were slaves in Egypt.

Give each child a piece of brown playdough from the box. Invite the children to make small brick shapes. Talk about what it was like for the Israelites at that time. Place the bricks in a pile on the yellow material.

Leader: When God set the Israelites free, they left Egypt with gifts of clothing and jewellery.

Give each child a piece of yellow playdough. Invite them to make gold jewellery with the yellow playdough. Talk about how the Israelites felt, being set free. Place the jewellery on the yellow material.

Leader: In the desert God provided food and water for them.

Use more yellow playdough to make discs of manna with the children. Place on the yellow material.

Leader: Now, the Israelites have travelled to Mount Sinai.

Provide more brown playdough for the children to push together to make a mountain.

Leader: Moses went up the mountain to listen to God. God gave him instructions on how the Israelites were to live as his people. This included ten special rules that were carved on flat pieces of stone.

Each child takes a piece of brown playdough from the mountain. Make two flat tablets of stone. Put markings on them (numbers one to ten).

Leader: Moses was away such a long time, that the people became unsure of Moses and his God. They asked Aaron to make a new 'god-statue' for them. So Aaron took their jewellery and used it to make a golden calf.

Collect together all the jewellery made earlier. Shape them into a calf statue (accuracy isn't too important!). Then lift the golden calf high.

Leader: The people worshipped it and celebrated their new 'god'.

Place the golden calf back onto the yellow material. Give out the photocopies of the golden calf sheet to each child. Invite them to find out how many ring shapes they can draw inside the calf statue.

Leader: Up on the mountain, God told Moses that things had gone wrong. When Moses came down the mountain, he saw the golden calf and was angry. He broke the stone tablets.

Children break up the brown playdough tablets.

Leader: Moses destroyed the golden calf.

All together – squash the calf flat.

Leader: God said he would still go with the Israelites. He instructed Moses to make another set of tablets. As the people travelled through the desert, God continued to provide for his people.

Children make new tablets from the brown playdough and more manna discs with the some of the extra yellow playdough from the box. Place these on the yellow material. With any leftover yellow playdough, ask the children to make something that is precious to them. Place these on the yellow material also.

Invite the children to respond to some 'wondering' statements. Be positive with all responses.

Leader:

- I wonder how God felt when he saw the people making a new 'god' from gold?
- I wonder how Moses felt when he knew the golden calf was made from the gifts of gold from Egypt?
- I wonder how the people felt when Moses squashed the calf?
- I wonder how the people felt when Moses said that God would still go with them?
- I wonder what you may be doing later today and if God will go with you?

Add the DESERT GOLD BOX to the TABLETOP TABLEAU by turning the box on its side and displaying some of the playdough shapes on the yellow material. Make up the golden calf shape to display alongside the jewellery. Place a photocopy of the golden calf sheet in the box.