

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES
QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION
EXODUS 32

Read Exodus 32:1-14

1. Give one word that might summarize the attitude of the people in verse 1?
2. Why are Israel so ready to break a commandment after agreeing to keep them multiple times (19:8, 20:19, 24:3, 7)? What do you think they want in asking for “gods to go before us”
3. “An idol can be anything you sacrifice your time, talents and treasure for in order to gain security, significance and satisfaction.” What things might a Christian be tempted to idolize when they are impatient with God’s timing or handling of events? How can we protect ourselves?
4. What do you think Aaron is trying to achieve in verse 5? How about in verses 21-24? What/who is Aaron most concerned about?
5. How do you think Christian leaders (and Christians in general) might face similar temptations to Aaron? Can you think of situations where you’d prefer a Christian leader to be like Aaron? How can we help our leaders remain godly?
6. During the rescue from Egypt God has a particular way of referring to his people (e.g Ex 3:7, 5:1, 9:1) and his deeds for them (Ex 13:14, 20:2). How does he change that here in verse 7? How does Moses deal with that change in verse 11?
7. Read Exodus 2:23-25. Is God threatening to go against his word in 32:10?
8. What reasons does Moses give God in vs 11-13? Who is Moses concerned for?
9. Does God change his mind? Why might we have problems with the idea that God changes his mind?
10. When you pray for Christians who are involved in sin, how can you learn from Moses’ example?

Read Exodus 32:15-35

11. Compare Moses’ response when he sees the idolatry in verses 18-21 to God’s response in verses 7-9. Has Moses’ attitude changed from his plea with God in verses 11-14?
12. What justification is given for this walk of execution? Is it fair that 3,000 die? How many should die?
13. Why does Moses want to atone for the people in vs 30-34? What does that tell us about Moses?
14. In verse 32 what is he asking for if God won’t forgive them? Is he successful? Why/why not?
15. This covenant is very recent and this chapter ends depressingly. What is the problem with this covenant? Has it failed? (Read Acts 13:38-39 and Galatians 3:19-24 for help).
16. How can Moses be uncompromising and compassionate at the same time? How can we? (Read Galatians 6:1-3 for some related advice).