

# GOD PUNISHES IDOLATRY

EXODUS 32:1-4, 32:21-24, 32:35; 1 TIMOTHY 2:5

## LEARN THE WORD

### Exodus 20:1-3

*And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."*

- The Israelites disobeyed God's commands and worshiped a golden calf.
- Moses prayed for God to show mercy, and God sent a plague instead of destroying the people for their sin.

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

## OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

Suppose you hear some neighborhood kids talking, and they say that God is mean because He's always punishing people.

### What could you say?

*Many people have the wrong idea of God being like a mean judge, but that's not true. The Bible teaches that God loves people, but we have to understand a few other important things about God. First, God is holy. That means He cannot sin and hates all sin. Second, God is just. That means He is always fair and must punish sin. If we stopped there, we would be in trouble because God must punish, or judge, our sin. But the Bible also tells us that God is merciful! That means He helps those in misery and withholds deserved punishment. God showed His love and mercy when He sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and take our punishment for sin. When we believe in Jesus and ask God for mercy and forgiveness, He forgives us! You can read more about God and what He's like from the Bible, too!*

