

# Questions to Talk about

To explore and discuss what Jews believe about forgiveness.

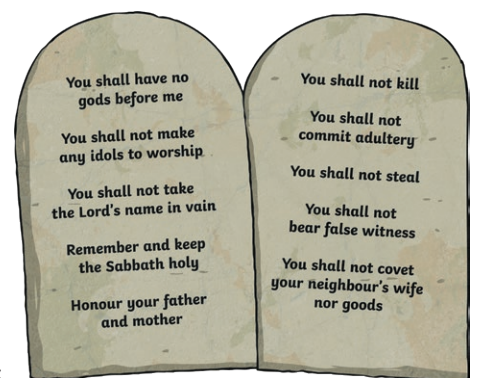


Reread the story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments. Work with your talk partner to answer these questions about forgiveness.

Jot down your answers together but the main focus should be on you discussing your responses to the questions together rather than writing down a lot of information.

**After three months of travelling, the Hebrews arrived at the foot of Mount Sinai. God called Moses to meet him at the top of the mountain. As he climbed up, there was a thunderstorm.**

**At the top of the mountain, God gave Moses ten laws which told the people how to live. These Ten Commandments were written on two stone tablets.**



**Moses was gone for a very long time, and the people waiting at the foot of the mountain grew impatient. They decided to make themselves another god to worship. It was a golden calf.**

**Then Moses returned to find the people worshipping the calf. He was very shocked. He broke the tablets God had given him and destroyed the calf. God forgave the people for worshipping the statue and told Moses to cut two more tablets of stone.**

**Moses took the stone tablets up the mountain and God gave him the Ten Commandments again. When he came down, all the people listened to Moses as he told them what God had said.**

**Moses promised God that the Hebrews would keep all of the commandments.**



# Questions to Talk about

1. Why did the people at the foot of the mountain make a calf?

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2. Which of the Ten Commandments did they disobey by doing this?

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3. How did Moses react when he saw the people worshipping the calf?

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4. Why do you think Moses broke the tablets?

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Does anything surprise you about the last sentence? - 'Moses promised God that the Hebrews would keep all of the commandments.'

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# Questions to Talk about Answers

1. Why did the people at the foot of the mountain make a calf?

*Moses had been gone for a long time so they made themselves something new to worship.*

2. Which of the Ten Commandments did they disobey by doing this?

*They were worshipping an idol so they were breaking the commandment which says, 'You shall have no gods before me' and also 'You shall not make any idols to worship'.*

3. How did Moses react when he saw the people worshipping the calf?

*He reacted in a shocked/angry way. He broke the tablets and smashed the calf.*

4. Why do you think Moses broke the tablets?

*Some believe that he broke the tablets in anger. Jewish philosophers have also argued that he broke the stones out of love for the Jewish people. If he smashed the agreement before the Hebrews received it, maybe he could save them from a severe punishment as they had not yet made their deal with God when they sinned.*

5. Does anything surprise you about the last sentence? - 'Moses promised God that the Hebrews would keep all of the commandments.'

*Some people might find it surprising that Moses speaks for all of the people by promising something without asking each individual person. The Jewish people acting as a big community is important in Judaism. Although Jews believe that each individual person has a relationship with God, He also has a relationship with the Jewish people as a whole. In Jewish prayers, Jews will also pray using the words 'we' and 'our' rather than 'I' and 'mine'.*