

“What were you thinking!” If a parent, you may have said that to a child. As a child, you may have heard it from your parents. You did something without thinking it through. You set the glass of grape juice on the new white carpet while you watched TV. You thought no one would notice one less lamp in the living room, broken by the ball being thrown around the room with your brother. What were you thinking? I wonder how many times Moses had that thought as he watched the way that God’s chosen people Israel acted. I wonder how many times God has thought when he watches the way we act. Today we’re going to look at another one of those “What were you thinking!” moments in the life of the Israelites and how God reacted.

### **Read & Review**

#### **Read Exodus 24:12-18**

1. What specific instructions did Moses give to Aaron, Hur and the other elders?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How long was Moses up on the mountain in what appeared to be a consuming fire?

#### **Read Exodus 32:1-6**

3. What request did the Israelites come to Aaron with and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. How did Aaron respond to their request?

#### **Read Exodus 32:7-14**

5. Look carefully at verse 7. What did the Lord call the Israelites?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How did the Lord test Moses in the “offer” the Lord made to him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. How did Moses respond to the Lord’s “offer” and what did it demonstrate?

### Read Exodus 32:15-24

8. What did Joshua initially think was happening as they approached the Israelite camp?
  
9. How did Moses demonstrate his righteous anger at what he saw in the Israelite camp?
  
10. What reason did Aaron give for doing what he did?

### Read Exodus 32:25-33:1

11. Israel was a theocracy, ruled by God. To lead and live in rebellion against God and his leaders was a capital offense. How did the Lord put a swift end to this rebellion?
  
12. While Israel reaped the consequences of their rebellion against the Lord, what did the Lord still allow Israel to do?

### His Word in Your Life

There are plenty of times when God might look at us and say, "What were you thinking! After all the love I'm shown you. After all that I've given to you. You do this?" There are consequences for our sins that we must endure and live with. But what is utterly amazing is that our lack of faithfulness to God does not undo God's faithfulness to us. He loves us even more. Look at what the Bible tells us God does for rebellious sinners like you and me.

- **Romans 5:8** *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
- **Psalm 103:11-12** *For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*

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