

# **Conversation Starter**

*For the week of September 21 to 27, 2008*

This week's theme:           It's Easy To Fall  
Current sermon series:       The Journey

Reading #1:   Exodus 32:1-6

Another stage in the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised Land was referred to during the reading of Sunday's Old Testament lesson. At this point of their journey, the Israelites were at the base of Mount Sinai – with one exception – Moses. He was up on the mountain meeting with God. In fact, Moses ended up being on the mountain for 40 days. That's a long time if the people thought he would be gone for only a short time. While Moses was gone, he left Aaron in charge. Eventually the people gave up hope that their leader, Moses, whom they saw as their direct connection to God, would return. And because of this they placed lots of pressure on Aaron to do something about it. Their solution? They made a statue in the form of a calf that came from their melted gold earrings. They came to believe that this calf was their god who delivered them out of Egypt and so they worshipped it and made sacrifices to it. How quickly they forgot that it was the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who delivered them from Egypt, who defeated Pharaoh and his army, who parted the Red Sea, who provided food and water in the desert and who gave them commandments that showed them how to have meaningful, righteous and holy lives. This story certainly shows us that even for God's own people, it's easy to fall.

1. Even after experiencing many mighty miracles, the Israelites still had difficulty being faithful to the Lord. Why do you think this was so?
2. Describe some of God's miracles and/or positive work He has done in your life.
3. Have you gone through a time of "falling" spiritually even though you've experienced God, His grace and mercy, and His presence? If yes, then remember you're not alone. Share this experience with the others in your group only if you want to.
4. Give some reasons why even followers of Jesus can fall.

If time permits, continue past this point for further discussion:

Reading #2:   Daniel 11:25

5. Provide some other examples of people noted in the Bible who "fell" after choosing to follow God/Jesus. How did they "fall"? Was it immediate or gradual? What can we learn from their experiences in order to not repeat it in our lives?
6. Based on the above verse from Daniel, how can God redeem our times of "falling"?
7. What are some spiritual disciplines we need to develop to help us come to the place where our falling happens less and less?
8. What attitudes and actions will keep us in a place where we easily fall (and often) rather than experience Christ's victory?

Prepared on: Tuesday, September 23, 2008  
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