

But since you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you --**see that you also excel in this grace of giving.**

2 Cor. 8:7



Having a Soft Heart in a Hardened World

The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16: 7



God shapes our hearts with three elements:



God shapes our hearts with three elements:

TRUTH

PEOPLE

EXPERIENCES





The needs of the world

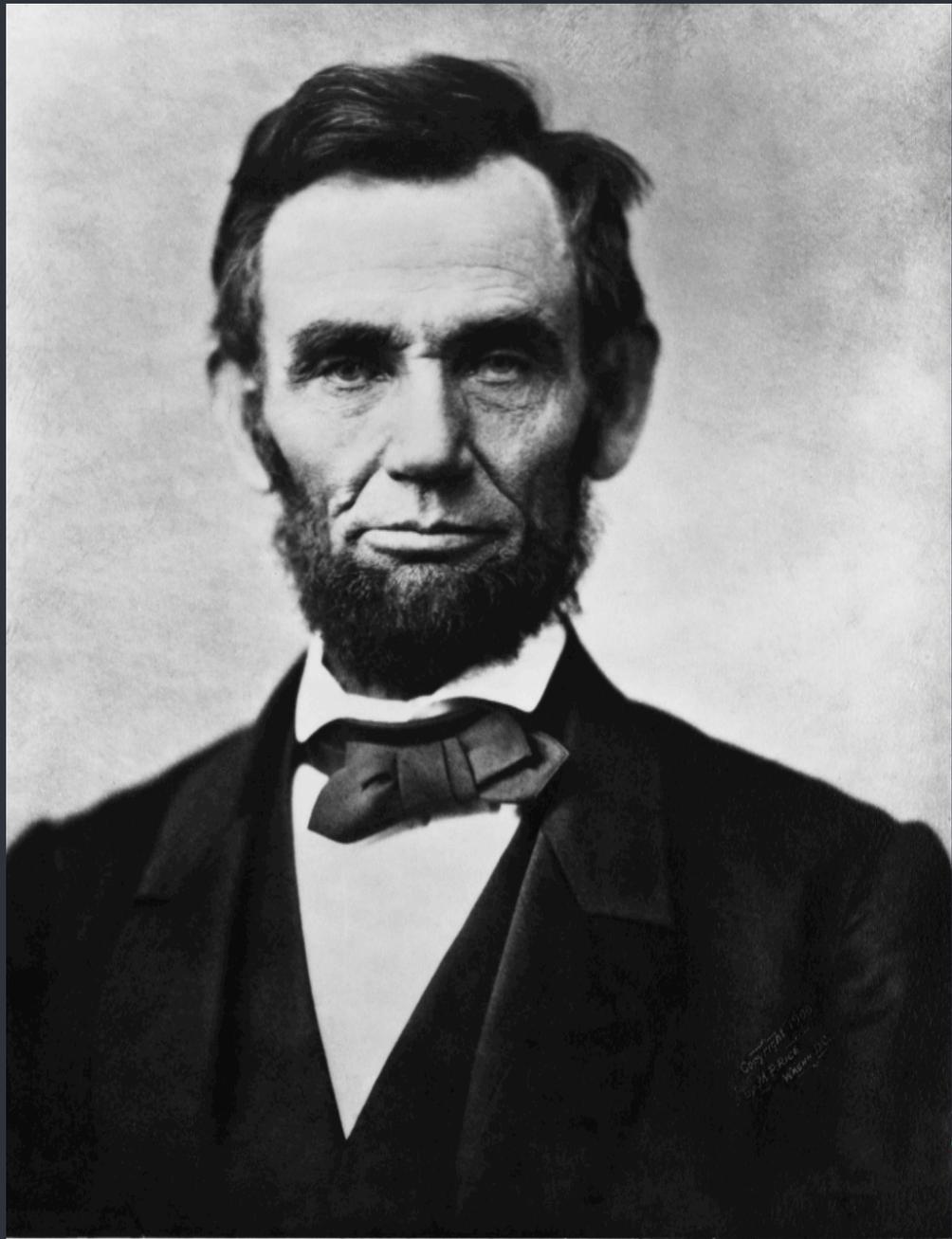


The needs of the world



The God Gap





What if... in His eyes God was calling
you to something great?



“We were designed to be great in God’s eyes. When he created humanity he proclaimed us not just good, but ‘very good.’ We exist for his glory and the kinds of purposes that aren’t served by mediocrity.

God loves it when his people are making a difference in his kingdom. He eagerly looks over the landscape of the world to honor, empower, and strengthen those who are living for his purposes and his pleasure. Our greatness – as he defines it – is his desire.”



Chip Ingram

Jesus asked his disciples, "What were you discussing out on the road?" But they didn't answer, because they had been **arguing about which of them was the greatest.** He sat down and said to them, "**Whoever wants to be first must take last place and be the servant of everyone else.**"

Matt. 9: 33-35









“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

**Do not be like the horse or the mule,
which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle
or they will not come to you.**

Many are the woes of the wicked,
but the LORD's unfailing love
surrounds the one who trusts in him.”

Ps. 32: 8-10



Big idea:

Don't ever, ever think that God
couldn't do something great **in his
eyes** through you!



#1. "I don't have all the answers."



#1. "I don't have all the answers."

God: You will have my presence.



#2. "What if I don't have their respect?"



#2. “What if I don’t have their respect?”

God: You will have my power.



#3. "I have a physical limitation."

God: I uses the weak things of
the world.



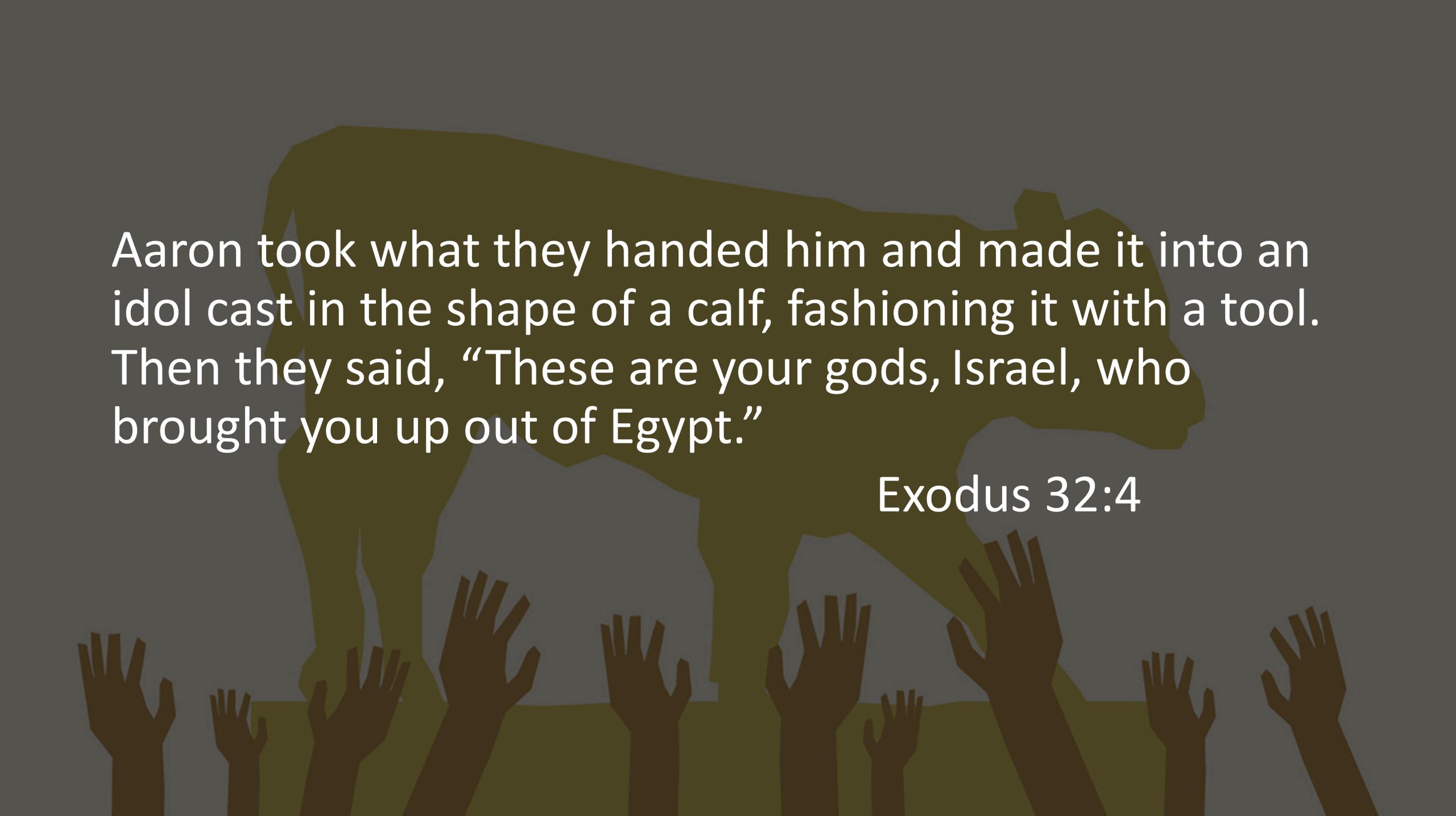
#3. "I have a physical limitation."



#4. “I’m not as qualified as others.”







Aaron took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

Exodus 32:4

#4. "I'm not as qualified as others."

God: I know what is best. YOU
are part of my plan.



Big idea:

Don't ever, ever think that God
couldn't do something great **in his
eyes** through you!









“I wanted to let you in on some good news I heard from one of our small groups. One of the members of the group recently had significant car trouble. The members of the group helped the individual find a mechanic who could install a new motor, helped with the cost, and made a vehicle available to the family until the work on their vehicle was complete... WOW...the church being the church.”



What burdens stick to your heart?



What burdens stick to your heart?

What promises of God won't let you go?



What **burdens** stick to your heart?

What **promises** of God won't let you go?

Who's **affirmation** do you need to receive?

Jethro said, "*Go in peace.*" EX. 4:18



Big idea:

Don't ever, ever think that God
couldn't do something great **in his
eyes** through you!

